37m-1943

ARKANSAS

7101

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Prosecutor Would Drop Case Against Policemen

JAN 9 - 1943

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—(ANP)—Negro citizens of Little Rock are chagrined at the attitude taken by the prosecuting attorney in the matter of the two former city policemen, L. S. Mullenax and C. N. Edie, indicated by a grand jury on a charge of raping a 19-year-old colored girl while they were police officers in uniform, the prosecution of which ended in a mistrial last July 28.

It was charged that on the night of July 7 the two policemen, who were subsequently discharged, ravished the girl after forcing her to go with them in their car to an out-of-the-way place. The charge was not denied. However, the defense contended that it was not without the girl's consent.

The case was ably presented by the prosecuting attorney, and that the jury could not agree was a surprise to a large number of citizens of both races. Upon the mistrial, the case was put up to Aug. 21. The date passed. The new trial was not held.

The prosecuting attorney now comes forward with the opinion that the case will probably be dropped, or else the charge modified so that the death penalty cannot be invoked.

Jury Could Not Agree

JAN 9 - 1943

The trial justice congratulated the moral courage of the grand jury in bringing in the indictment of white men on a charge of rape on a Negro girl. The office of the prosecutor received the approbation of colored citizens on his fair and able prosecution of the case in the court. The fact that the jury could not agree indicates the strength of his prosecution.

Now the prosecuting attorney changes his point of view. He announces that the case may be dropped or the charge modified. Citizens ask what has happened to the case he so ably prepared and presented?

The same allegations hold, they point out, saying it seems more than inconsistent for the prosecuting attorney to be willing to modify the charge, much less to drop the case altogether. The administration of law and justice is not promoted by such an attitude or such a decision, they assert.

"If the evidence warranted an indictment, the weight of that evidence has not been weakened," a local leader observed. "If the case prepared and prosecuted by the prosecuting attorney was warranted by the evidence then, that evidence has not changed.

"The trial justice and the prosecutor made very plain that it was not a question of white men having raped a colored girl, but that the offense charged was a capital crime in the state of Arkansas, regardless of the race of the parties involved.

Charges of rape which have been tried before courts of competent jurisdiction are not dropped out of hand because of mistrials. Rape is a felony of the highest order ranking with murder and kidnaping. It carries the death penalty.

Citizens Indifferent

JAN 9 - 1943

"It appears to be playing with law enforcement and plain justice to permit a person so charged to be liberated because of a mistrial, or to modify the charge of an indictment by a grand jury. The very fact that the trial ended in a mistrial indicates quite plainly that there are the same grounds as there were before. A jury unable to arrive at a verdict in a trial of white men charged with an offense against a Negro girl is a significant fact."

The Negroes of Little Rock are demandig that the defendants be tried again on the charge of rape as appears in the indictment. Any other procedure will be a pernicious tampering with the administration of law, they point out.

Little Rock Citizens Demand That Defendants Charge In Rape Case Be Tried Again

The Informer, Houston, Texas

JAN 9 - 1943

Trial Not Held On Scheduled

LITTLE ROCK—(ANP)—Negro citizens of Little Rock are chagrined at the attitude taken by the prosecuting attorney in the matter of the two former city policemen, L. S. Mullenax and C. N. Edie, indicted by a grand jury on a charge of raping a 19-year-old colored girl while in uniform, the prosecution of which ended in a mistrial last July 28.

JAN 9 - 1943

It was charged that on the night of July 7, the two policemen who were subsequently discharged ravished the girl after forcing her to go with them in their car to an out-of-the-way place for that purpose. The charge of sexual contact was not denied. However, the defense contended that it was not without the girl's consent.

Houston, Tex.

JAN 9 - 1943

The case was ably presented by the prosecuting attorney, and that the jury could not agree was a surprise to a large number of citizens of both races. Upon the mistrial, the case was put up to Aug. 21. The date passed. The new trial was not held. The prosecuting attorney now comes forward with the opinion that the case will be probably dropped, or else the charge modified so that the death penalty cannot be invoked.

37m

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JAN 9 - 1943

Attorney's Attitude Changing

Now the prosecuting attorney changed his point of view. He announces that the case may be dropped or the change modified. Citizens ask what has happened to the case he so ably prepared and presented? The same allegations hold, they point out, saying it seems more than inconsistent for the prosecuting attorney to be willing to modify the charge, much less to drop the case altogether. The administration of law and justice is not promoted by such an attitude or such a decision, they assert.

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37m-1943

Arizona

7102

'Silence Golden,' Says Slayer Of Girl, 11, as He Is Executed

World-Telegram
New York, N. Y.

FLORENCE, Ariz., Feb. 19.—Big Jim Rawlins, 46, died in Arizona's lethal gas chamber today as the state exacted its toll for the rape and murder of tousled-headed little Marylin Erma Atkins.

Rawlins left death row at 6 a. m. and had been strapped in a chair in the tiny white-death room by 6:05. Eight and one-half minutes later Warden A. G. Walker told the witnesses crowded near the glass partition that Rawlins was dead.

The former machinist who ravished and then strangled to death the 11-year-old girl in Morenci Aug. 29, 1942, spent his last hour with two Presbyterian ministers, the Rev. Elbert Nash of Morenci and the Rev. S. E. Hanah, the prison chaplain.

FEB 19 1943

"Silence is golden" was all Rawlins would say before he left the cell he has occupied since Sept. 15.

Rawlins, father of two small girls, was the 46th person to be executed by Arizona and the 18th man to die in the gas chamber since it replaced the gallows in 1934.

37m-1943 CALIFORNIA (Flynn)

World-Telegram
New York, N. Y.

7103

Errol Flynn on Stand Denies He Attacked 2 Girl Accusers

JAN 28 1943

By FREDERICK C. OTHMAN,
United Press Staff Correspondent

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 28.—Errol Flynn declared to a jury today that he'd barely met 17-year-old Betty Hansen, much less subjected her to statutory rape.

Flynn, who also had denied all charges of Peggy Satterlee, 16, his other accuser, took up in detail the case of Miss Hansen, waitress who crashed a party at the home of Fred McEvoy in the fashionable Bel Air movie colony.

"Every statement made about me by this witness was false," he said of Miss Hansen's charges.

Not Introduced to Her.

Then he described the tennis party, given by McEvoy, and told how the guests gathered in the house for drinks before dinner. He said it was an informal party and that he had noticed Miss Hansen but had not been introduced to her.

JAN 28 1943

"The first time I ever paid any attention to her," he continued under questioning of his attorney, Jerry Giesler, "was when she came over and sat on the arm of my chair. I paid no particular attention to that because all the other chairs were occupied.

"But she began to slide down into the seat. Soon it became a little uncomfortable. She kept on sliding. And it became quite uncomfortable."

Flynn said Miss Hansen's sliding occupied about 10 minutes.

"Didn't you talk to her?" asked Giesler.

"I believe," said Flynn, "that I did get the impression she was from Nebraska. She also told me she'd like to visit the studio some time and she asked me what I was drinking. I told her a martini.

Drank His Drink.

"She asked me what a martini was. I laughed and she asked if she could try it. She took my drink and drank part of it.

"Then we went in to dinner. Miss Hansen looked a little rocky. It looked as though she were about to get sick, right after the soup. So Mr. McEvoy asked me if I would take her into the music room so she could lie down on the divan.

JAN 28 1943

"I did so. I was back at the table in 30 seconds."

After dinner Flynn said he and the host adjourned to the sun-

the host adjourned to the sun-

half an hour, drinking and chatting.

"I believe I heard some music from the other room. Anyhow, I did go out the back door to get my tennis racquet which I'd left by the pool and then I went home."

"Didn't you say good-by to everybody, including Miss Hansen?" asked Giesler.

"Yes, I said good-by to them all, but I paid no attention to her."

JAN 28 1943

"Did you kiss her?" Giesler asked.

Denies All Charges.

Flynn said he didn't. Giesler continued: "Did she kiss you then?"

"I don't know," Flynn said. "She sort of seemed to hang onto me and if she kissed me it must have been where I wouldn't notice it."

Flynn denied going upstairs or telling Miss Hansen that he intended to take her up.

His attorney then asked him a series of short questions: "Did you put her in bed? Did you undress her? Did you have a sexual act with her? Did you take her into the bathroom? Did you put hair oil on your hair"

These questions Flynn answered with a staccato: "No-no-no-no-no."

JAN 28 1943

"But you did sit here in this court and hear Miss Hansen's statements?"

Flynn said he had listened carefully.

"Were they true or false?"

"They were false," Flynn replied.

Shouts Denials.

Mr. Giesler then demanded whether Flynn had had intimacies with either Betty or Peggy.

Flynn shouted "No, I did not!" to each question.

JAN 28 1943

Associate Prosecutor John Hopkins began the cross-examination.

Flynn repeated for the prosecutor his statement that Miss Satterlee never would have been aboard his yacht had not Peter Stackpole, photographer for Life magazine, suggested a pretty girl go along for camera atmosphere.

"I asked the publicity department of Warner Bros. to provide a girl, but they said there was no time. So my standin, Jim Fleming, suggested Miss Satterlee.

"He said, 'I think she's going to work at Warner Bros. anyway,' so I said, 'Swell.'"

Flynn insisted he was ill from sinus trouble during the cruise and added, "I was feeling very bad."

In bitter, sarcastic tones, Mr. Hopkins led Flynn through all the details of his Catalina Island cruise with Miss Satterlee but failed to gain any damaging admissions.

Flynn said he could not remember spiking Miss Satterlee's drink with rum during the Catalina yachting party. He couldn't even remember that she had drunk milk.

"Didn't her testimony on this point refresh your mind?" Hopkins insisted.

JAN 28 1943

"Her testimony only struck me that milk is a very peculiar thing to drink," Flynn retorted.

Errol Flynn to Take Stand in Rape Trial

1/23 43

By the United Press.

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 23.—Errol Flynn, who has listened glumly to two weeks of ear-burning testimony, speaks in his own defense next week in hope of refuting the charges of two teen-age girls that he is guilty of three counts of statutory rape.

"I have waited a long time to open my yap," said the man who is one of Hollywood's greatest money-making movie stars. "I won't have to wait much longer."

His attorney, Jerry Giesler, said he would begin presenting Monday about 12 witnesses to tell Mr. Flynn's version of the dinner party attended by 17-year-old Betty Hansen and the yachting cruise taken by 16-year-old Peggy Satterlee. He said the actor would give the final testimony, probably Wednesday or Thursday.

The prosecution completed its case late yesterday, when court recessed for the week end.

Prosecutor Sums Up In Errol Flynn Case

FEB 2 1943

By the Associated Press.

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 2.—[illegible] uty District Attorney Thomas Cochran in his final argument for Errol Flynn's conviction on [illegible] charges told the jury today that Betty Hansen had been dazzled by her Hollywood setting and had succumbed to the glamour man of all glamour men.

FEB 2 1943

"Undoubtedly the defense will rend this little girl limb from limb," he told the jury as Flynn listened impassively. "We expect that, and you must expect it."

Cochran's summary was expected to take the remainder of the day. Defense Attorney Jerry Giesler will start his final argument tomorrow.

World-Telegram
New York, N. Y.

Girl Could Have Seen Moon, Says Flynn Case Astronomer

By FREDERICK C. OTHMAN,
United Press Staff Correspondent.

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 29.—The prosecutors of Errol Flynn on statutory rape charges called in an astronomer today to prove that Peggy Satterlee, 16, could have seen the moon through the porthole of the movie hero's yacht if she had looked.

JAN 29 1943

Miss Satterlee charged that Flynn lured her below deck on the yacht Sirocco on Aug. 3, 1941, on pretext of giving her a lunar view through the porthole, pushed her back on the bunk and attacked her. Defense witnesses testified the moon was straight overhead and could not be seen through the porthole.

C. H. Cleminshaw, acting director of the Griffith Park Observatory, brought to court a celestial globe and pointed out the position of the moon on the night in question. He said it was never more than one-third of the way above the horizon—easily in view of anyone at the porthole.

The astronomer was the first of the rebuttal witnesses called to attack the story of Flynn, who insisted for two days of testimony that he had not subjected Miss Satterlee or his other accuser, 17-year-old Betty Hansen, to statutory rape.

In cross-examining the astronomer, Defense Attorney Giesler brought out the statement from Mr. Cleminshaw that if the ship was going north that night (as it was) the moon would have been astern—and Peggy couldn't have been a porthole astronomer after all.

JAN 29 1943

Before the astronomer went on, Mr. Giesler called one witness, Mrs. Elizabeth Cathcart-Jones of New York. She testified she had married Owen Cathcart-Jones in 1936 and [illegible] to him. Mr. Cathcart-Jones, who had admitted paying the rent of the apartment occupied by Miss Satterlee and her sister, Mickey June, had testified he was divorced.

"And [illegible] from a F[illegible] across th[illegible]

"Yes."

The wi[illegible] club and [illegible] Miss Sat[illegible] mer of 19[illegible] whether [illegible] time. H[illegible]

"You h[illegible] dren, did [illegible] asked.

"A div[illegible] Jones am[illegible]

Flier Tells of Trysts With Satterlee Girl

JAN 22 1943

By the Associated Press.

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 22.—Capt. Owen Cathcart-Jones, former RCAF squadron leader, admitted at Errol Flynn's trial on Saturday statutory rape charges today that he had accompanied Peggy La Rue Satterlee to various places—even to a mortuary where, he said, Peggy played hide-and-seek among the corpses.

The flier, who said he is 42, [illegible] told on defense cross-examination that 16-year-old Peggy had been a frequent visitor to his Hollywood apartment, alone. Miss Satterlee is the [illegible] witness in two of the [illegible] with which Flynn is [illegible] charged.

The airman, speaking in a broad [illegible] accent, admitted accompanying Miss Satterlee to night [illegible] vacation spots and restau-

Errol Flynn 'Almost Broke,' Calls Trial 'Political Scheme'

By FREDERICK C. OTHMAN,
United Press Staff Correspondent.

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 8.—Errol Flynn, "almost broke" but happy over his acquittal, said today that statutory rape charges against him as a "political scheme" [illegible]

...could find me guilty," Flynn said. "A lot of mud has been thrown and I suppose some of it may stick. But I am happy that the political scheming in the case hasn't interfered with American justice."

Defending himself against the charges lodged by Betty Hansen, 17, a waitress, and Peggy Larue Satterlee, 16, night club entertainer, had left him "nearly broke," Flynn said.

"I think it is too bad that so much valuable time—the state's, the jurors' and mine—and also a lot of the states' money and mine, has been wasted while the world is involved in total war," he added.

The actual cost of his defense was not known. Neither Flynn nor his attorney, Jerry Giesler, would reveal the fee, but estimates were that it was a big one. Flynn said his immediate plans were uncertain and depended on a certain "job."

"This involves a job I am seeking to help our country in the war effort," he said. "I'm sorry I can't say any more about it at this time, but I can tell you it has nothing to do with motion pictures."

Errol Flynn Resting In Seclusion After 20-Day Trial Ordeal

LOS ANGELES — (AP) — Somewhere in seclusion Screen Actor Errol Flynn rested Monday from the ordeal of his 20-day trial on attack charges, of which he was acquitted.

His accusers and the state's principal witnesses, meanwhile, had withdrawn from the Hollywood scene, where both dreamed of film careers, and from the limelight of the court action they brought against Flynn.

Peggy Larue Satterlee, 16-year-old former night-club entertainer, already had departed for her home in Applegate, Calif., where she plans to reenter high school, as a sophomore. Arrangements are being completed, said Deputy Dist. Atty. Thomas Cochran, to send 17-year-old Betty Hansen back to her Lincoln, Neb., home.

Cochran, who prosecuted the case against Flynn, said he would sign an order releasing Miss Hansen from Juvenile Hall.

Miss Hansen charged Flynn attacked her in the "blue bedroom" of a Bel-Air home following a dinner party last September. Miss Satterlee testified Flynn was twice intimate with her aboard his yacht Sirocco during a week-end cruise to Catalina Island in August, 1941.

The jury of nine women and three men brought in a verdict of innocent Saturday after deliberating about 24 hours.

Neither Flynn's attorney, Jerry Giesler, nor studio executives could locate the actor Monday for a statement concerning his future plans, but it was understood no picture work for him is contemplated for three or four weeks. At the conclusion of the trial Flynn stated he was going to take "a good long rest."

Age of 2 Girls To Be Crux Of Flynn Trial

By the Associated Press

Los Angeles, Jan. 12.—The job of assembling a jury to try Movie Actor Errol Flynn on three counts of statutory rape proceeded laboriously today, as the defense indicated the importance it places on the ages of the two complaining witnesses.

Defense Attorney Jerry Giesler emphasized the State must prove the two complaining witnesses—Betty Hansen, 17-year-old Lincoln, Nebr., schoolgirl, and Peggy La Rue Satterlee, 16-year-old Hollywood entertainer—were under 18 years of age.

"You will give consideration to all the evidence on both sides as to age?" he asked one witness, then added: "It's a basic question in a charge of rape."

California Age Limit

Statutory rape under California law involves solely proof of a sexual act with a girl under 18. Consent is not involved.

"Just because of the fact that the defendant is an actor and identified with Hollywood and the motion-picture industry does not lead you to assume that they have any different set of morals than others in the community?" Giesler asked another venireman.

Prospective jury members were in agreement that familiarity with the romantic adventures of the defendant on the screen would have no effect on their judgment.

Neither side had challenged for cause midway in the second day's proceedings, and the State had used only one of its 10 peremptory challenges; the defense none.

8 Women on Jury

Eight women, seven of them married, and four men occupied the jury box tentatively as the noon adjournment was taken.

Excused under the State's first peremptory challenge was Nathaniel L. Manheim, former export manager in a film studio's New York office. Two others on the jury have acknowledged that they have relatives in movie studios, but all agreed it would not affect their deliberations. Manheim is a brother-in-law of Irene Manning, an actress at Flynn's studio.

The trial continued to draw a capacity audience, with a number of would-be watchers, mostly women, turned away. Miss Satterlee charges she was raped twice during a cruise on Flynn's yacht Sirocco, in August, 1941. Miss Hansen accuses the actor of raping her last September during a party at the home of Fred McEvoy, wealthy British sportsman.

PM
New York, N. Y.

Errol Charges It Was All a Plot

Special Correspondent

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 8.—Errol Flynn had some things to say today about his trial on a charge of statutory rape of two 'teen-age girls.

The movie actor was acquitted Saturday. The trial, said Flynn, was an attempt to discredit him and was the result of a political scheme.

"Now that I've had time to think things over," said Flynn, "I don't believe the people who prosecuted me ever thought they would find me guilty. I do believe they thought they might discredit me.

"A lot of mud has been thrown and I suppose some of it may stick."

Also, Flynn said:

¶ American justice has been vindicated by the verdict.

¶ He regrets that the time, money, and effort spent on the trial could not have been used in prosecuting the war.

¶ He is nearly broke, what with maintaining Hollywood living scales and defending the rape case on the side.

¶ He hopes to get a job "to help our country in the war effort."

¶ He may make another picture if one can be prepared soon (*an editorial on page* 18).

PM
New York, N. Y.

Errol Flynn Unbound

The news of the Errol Flynn acquittal coincided with another bit of news: that a huge Nazi army was trapped below Rostov and faced a Dunkirk of massive proportions.

Yet the people who passed me on the streets and jostled me on the subways were talking not about Rostov and General Golikov, but about Betty and Peggy and Errol.

I do not say this as a sour-faced reformer of men's ways. I see no point to condemning their preoccupation, any more than I should condemn the preoccupation of a dog with a bone in the dirt. It is the stuff out of which we (and I do not exclude myself) suck much of the marrow of life. As a human situation it had everything: sex, speculation (did he or didn't he?), identification with the accusers or the accused, the suspense that always goes with a prolonged trial, the possible shattering of a career, and that ordeal of the individual who has transgressed a taboo which the Greeks used to call *hybris*.

It would have been a strange occurrence—this sort of trial and the focusing on it—anywhere except in America; and strange in America anywhere except in the Never Never land of Hollywood. Nowhere in America do man-made gods and goddesses flourish as they do there. Nowhere else are the materials at hand for the fashioning of the klieg-light myths—febrile, artificial, and yet strangely moving—that dominate our matinee and evening lives.

World-Telegram
New York, N. Y.

Science Spotlighted At Errol Flynn Trial

By the United Press

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 30.—Trial of Errol Flynn on charges of assault preferred by two teen-aged girls goes into its fourth week Monday with the jury still absorbing testimony concerning astronomy, door locks, weather conditions by sea, etc., particularly et cetera.

Old-timers claim that not since the days of the late Attorney Earl Rogers, the original master of spectacular courtroom technique, has a trial of this kind explored so many legal alleys, or given a jury so many weird angles to cogitate.

In charge of Flynn's defense is the portly Jerry Giesler, one-time clerk in Rogers' law office, and now the West's best-known criminal lawyer.

The Moon Plays Part.

Peggy Satterlee, 16, charged Flynn with taking her yachting and attacking her twice, the second time on pretext of showing her how beautiful the moon looked through a porthole.

Flynn denied having had relations with her; insisted he never left the port-hole and twisting her neck at a

...ree angle.
...other state's witness was a ...her bureau official, called to ...y about the breeze at sea. ...Flynn had described as ...witnesses said he'd never gone up-...stairs. Still others said the door of ...Giesler got him into a dis-...cussion of how far a boat heels ...in a fresh wind—and thereby ...written into the record the ...ment that the porthole ...gh which Miss Satterlee said ...saw the moon probably was ...many years, if any, he must serve ...in prison until his trial has con-...sumed a full four weeks.

...en there was the case of 17-...old Betty Hansen, a waitress ...crashed a tennis party at the ...e of Fred McEvoy in Bel Aire ...d on to dinner, and accused ...g of taking her upstairs, put-

...year-old Flynn denies All.
...who crashed ...couldn't have seen it without ...sticking her head out of the port-...look her below deck to show her ...hole and twisting her neck at a

37m-1943

CALIFORNIA (Flynn)

7104

World-Telegram
New York, N. Y.

'No Pigtails?', Errol Flynn Asks As Accuser, 16, Appears at Trial

JAN 12 1943

By FREDERICK C. OTHMAN,
United Press Staff Correspondent.

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 12.—Errol Flynn faced the second session of his statutory rape trial in a crowded superior courtroom here today with a boyish remark that one of his girl accusers had changed her hair style.

"What, no pigtails?" the actor said when he noted that Betty Jane Peggy Larue Satterlee, a dancer, wore her hair in ringlets.

Flynn referred to the fact that at his preliminary hearing on the charges last November, Miss Satterlee, who charged that Flynn forced her to submit to him twice on his yacht, when she was 15, went to court in pigtails and wearing schoolgirl clothing. Today she looked much more mature in a blue suit and white blouse, with her hair in packed curls and her lips heavy with color.

Betty Hansen, 17, the second alleged victim of Flynn's advances, who claims he gave her a green cocktail at a gay Hollywood party and then attacked her, was dressed in subdued fashion.

JAN 12 1943

Attorneys resumed routine questioning today of prospective jurors. The questioning proceeded slowly as the lawyers sought to determine the attitude of veniremen toward testimony the girls are expected to offer.

It appeared that the large crowd of spectators would be forced to wait until tomorrow before the jury box would be filled.

A hint of things was contained in the affidavit of Kayward Kingsley, skipper of Flynn's yacht, that during the trip to Catalina Island Flynn suffered from sinus trouble, had a running nose, and a headache, and could not possibly have been interested in a rendezvous with Miss Satterlee.

JAN 12 1943

Patterson Located.

The defense, led by Attorney Jerry Giesler, announced it had located Elaine Patterson, car hop in a drive-in restaurant, who also was on the cruise. Miss Patterson was prepared to testify she heard no screams, no fights, and no noises in Flynn's stateroom.

Mr. Giesler turned to Flynn, who faces a 50-year prison sentence if found guilty, and announced that his client would take the stand.

"He will make a frank and personal defense," Giesler said.

Young Girls Barred.

Mr. Giesler's questioning of the jury, plus the fact that women spectators besieging the courtroom had to prove they were over 21 before the bailiff would let them in, indicated that the testimony would be very frank.

JAN 12 1943

"Would you," Giesler asked Mrs. Jenny Larson, a prospective juror, "be prejudiced against the defense due to the fact that counsel would have to ask many intimate sexual questions of these girls?"

Mrs. Larson, a middle-aged housewife, answered: "No."

World-Telegram
New York, N. Y.

Court Jammed As Errol Flynn Trial Is Started

JAN 11 1943

Betty Hansen, 17, One of the Two Accusers, Present

JAN 11 1943

By FREDERICK C. OTHMAN,
United Press Hollywood Writer.

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 11.—Film Star Errol Flynn wormed his way through a packed courtroom today and went on trial on three charges of statutory rape preferred by a Nebraska schoolgirl and a teen-age Hollywood dancer.

Spectators, mostly women, lined up in front of the barricaded door for more than two hours before Superior Judge Leslie E. Gill ordered the doors opened.

Betty Hansen, 17-year-old high school student who left her home in Lincoln, Neb., to seek a motion picture career in Hollywood, arrived early, accompanied by a policewoman.

Miss Hansen later was to retell her story that she had a greenish cocktail at a gay Hollywood party and then went to an upstairs bedroom and submitted to Flynn's advances.

JAN 11 1943

Has Slight Make-Up.

Pale without the bright make-up she wore in an earlier appearance at Flynn's prolonged preliminary hearing, Miss Hansen looked extremely young. She wore a gray slipover sweater, a brown flowered skirt, brown high-heeled pumps and no stockings.

Peggy Larue Satterlee, dancer who accused Flynn of attacking her twice in the cabin of the actor's yacht, was not present. Her sister, Mickey June Satterlee, screen actress, took a seat immediately behind Miss Hansen.

Mr. and Mrs. William Crawford Satterlee, parents of the two girls, sat near various witnesses, including Lynn Boyer, singer, and Agnes (Chi Chi) Toupes, dancer, who were present at the party in which Miss Hansen asserted she was attacked, and Mrs. Patricia Marsden, Miss Hansen's sister.

Goes to Court

Betty Hansen.

World-Telegram
New York, N. Y.

Wants to Help U.S., Errol Flynn Says

JAN 13 1943

By FREDERICK C. OTHMAN,
United Press Staff Correspondent.

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 13.—A jury of nine women and three men was sworn in today to try Film Star Errol Flynn on three counts of statutory rape involving two school-age girls.

JAN 13 1943

Previously Flynn disclosed plans to go overseas when the case ends.

"I want to help out overseas," he said. "I can't tell you what I have in mind yet. I am confident my name will be cleared in this trial, and when it is over I will leave for overseas."

Won't Give Details.

Flynn would not say whether he planned to abandon the film career that has made him one of the highest-paid actors in Hollywood and Warner Brothers' leading male revenue producer.

Box office returns from Flynn's pictures have skyrocketed since he was accused of statutory rape upon Betty Hansen, 17, movie-struck Nebraska school girl, and Peggy Larue Satterlee, 18, night club chorus girl.

JAN 13 1943

If he is acquitted, Flynn is expected to be more popular than ever in his films. If found guilty, he faces ruin of his career and as much as 50 years in prison.

Hint at Revelations.

Flynn's lawyers, headed by Jerry Geisler, hinted mysteriously about witnesses who would have much to tell concerning Miss Satterlee's yachting jaunt to Catalina Island with Flynn last year while she was only 15. The lawyers wouldn't name their witnesses but promised they'd startle the jury.

JAN 13 1943

Flynn's feminine admirers, mostly middle-aged and plainly dressed, have been using every recess to seek his autograph, pat his arm and wish him well.

World-Telegram
New York, N. Y.

Girl Testifies She Resisted Flynn on Yacht

JAN 20 1943

But Peggy Satterlee Admits She Found No Bruises on Body

By FREDERICK C. OTHMAN,
United Press Staff Correspondent.

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 20.—Peggy Satterlee, the 16-year-old show girl who went to bed on Errol Flynn's yacht without locking the door, insisted today on cross-examination that she resisted both of his alleged assaults during a voyage to Catalina Island.

Miss Satterlee was cross-examined by the actor's lawyer, Jerry Giesler.

After recounting how Flynn got in bed with her, Mr. Giesler asked:

"Didn't you think of making an outcry?"

"No."

JAN 20 1943

"Mr. Flynn didn't have your mouth covered up?"

"No," said Miss Satterlee. "And what was the use of my crying out? All the people on the boat were Flynn's friends, anyway."

"Did you," demanded Mr. Giesler, "remind him you were J. B. meaning jail bait, and S. Q. Q. meaning San Quentin Quail?"

"Yes," Miss Satterlee said.

"Was the boat moored close to the shore at Catalina Island when you went up on deck?"

"Yes."

Could See People Ashore.

"And you could see people on the shore?"

"Yes."

"But you didn't cry out?"

"No."

"You just went downstairs again and went to bed and went to sleep?"

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"I just dozed."

"And then you got up a few hours later and had breakfast with Mr. Flynn?"

"Yes."

Miss Satterlee related that "she" went ashore, but returned to the boat voluntarily.

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Mr. Giesler asked if she and Flynn were on deck that night.

"What were you doing?"

"Looking at the moon."

"Where was the moon?"

"In the sky," said Miss Satterlee. "But I don't exactly remember where."

World-Telegram
New York, N. Y.

Flynn on Deck Throughout Trip, Witness Says

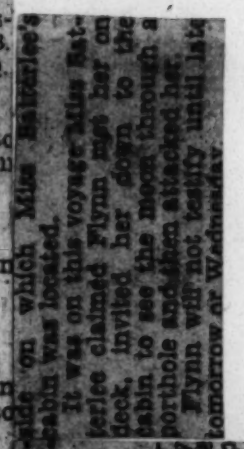
Girl Never Upset, Yacht's Portholes Sealed, Sailor Swears

By the United Press

JAN 25 1943

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 25.—Errol Flynn, who likes to sail his own boat, was at the helm of his yacht Sirocco throughout the return voyage from Catalina Island during which 16-year-old Peggy Satterlee charged the actor attacked her, Hulbert Oliver, a crew member, testified today at Flynn's trial on statutory rape charges.

Oliver, now a corporal in the Army Air Force, testified as the first defense witness that at no time during the return voyage did



After telling how he and Kay Kingsley, captain of the yacht, picked up Peter Stackpole and Time photographer, and [illegible] got under way Saturday [illegible] Oliver was asked about Flynn's whereabouts during the [illegible] trip to Catalina Island. He testified that on the return trip the Sirocco broke [illegible] Flynn steered the boat all the way back to San Pedro," he said. "Did he go below at any time?" asked Giesler. "No."

JAN 25 1943

Lay Off, Othman Tells Readers Who Beef About His Coverage of the Errol Flynn Trial

—And That Goes For Those Who Want More Detail

By FRED OTHMAN

Hollywood, Jan. 21.—So, all right, we are covering the trial of Errol Flynn. But that doesn't mean we're the judge, too. Or that we're going to enter the "feelthy" book business. Or that you customers have any business writing us poison pen letters.

We just barely know this fellow, Flynn. We don't know the judge except to bow. We have no opinions whatever concerning the young ladies who have filed charges against hero Flynn, and we're tired of burrowing through the pile of mail every morning on our desk. So how's to quit writing us about Flynn, fellers? And cut out the insulting telegrams?

One of these wires was from a citizen of Sweetwater, Texas, who read our copy and found it not to his liking. He said we were low on chivalry. He didn't like the way we described the two teen-age accusers of Flynn.

It's Not Our Fault.

All we can say is that it's not our fault if Peggy Satterlee doesn't know the difference between a crumpet and a strumpet and says so on the witness stand. Neither can we be blamed for the fact that Betty Hansen testified it was her own idea that she sit in Flynn's lap.

Another wire came from some hecklers in Marion, Ind. They wanted to know why Flynn and Betty didn't remove their shoes, too.

"Who had holes in whose hose?" queried the Indiana well-wisher.

A committee of ladies, forming the White Plains, N. Y., chapter of the Flynn Protective Association (honest, that's what they said) sent a registered letter so we'd be sure to get it. They said for us to hurry over to court and tell the judge to stop the trial. They said Flynn was not guilty. They said they could tell by his face. What they said about accusers wouldn't sound well here.

Here's a Typical Letter.

Another letter, from six women in Cleveland, went into detail as to why Flynn was an innocent man. This letter is typical of the small mountain of mail we are accumulating. We quote:

"We can't understand why they have a trial. Can't they see what kind of girls are making the charges? They may be minors in age, but they aren't so dumb to not know what life is all about.

PEGGY SATTERLEE.

"They knew what they were getting into. We blame the girls, not Mr. Flynn. If we were the judges we'd jail the girls until they were 100 years old. They ought to be ashamed of themselves.

"What did this Hansen girl think about when she was asked to go up to a bedroom? That she was going to find a doll?

"Us Clevelanders are 100 per cent behind Mr. Flynn. Good luck, Mr. Flynn."

Shame On You!

Most of our mail has come from women who say the same thing in almost the same words. The rest of it is from men (tch-tch) who want us to send them full, unexpurgated copies of the testimony.

We've got enough orders now to go into the publishing business and get rich, or maybe land up in jail for printing such copy. One group of newsmen made their request thus:

"We, the undersigned, request that you (the boss) have Othman airmail a transcript of the better portions of the Flynn trial testimony on the ground that it is necessary for the desk's morale, conducive to better copyreading and just necessary."

So the boss sent their resolution out to us and we say, nuts. All the news that's fit to print (it is, so, fit to print) is going into our dispatches. The part that we don't send on the wire mostly concerns the details of ladies' underwear. This is supposed to be a specialty of the sex.

There's a Moral—Maybe.

We're not going to tell a thing about it, no matter what the Misses Hansen and Satterlee claim. They are, incidentally, exceedingly pretty girls. Look like they might be students at Hollywood High School.

Too bad, come to think of it, that they're not.

All this, of course, indicates that there's intense public interest in the troubles of Flynn—more interest, perhaps, than in anything that's happened in Hollywood since Mary Astor wrote her diary. Somewhere in our mail there's a moral. One that Hollywood probably should take to heart.

They Say 2 Jurors Perjured Themselves And Acted Deceitfully

By FREDERICK C. OTHMAN,
United Press Hollywood Correspondent.

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 16.—Three housewives who found themselves ejected as prospective jurors in the statutory rape trial of Errol Flynn left him biting his fingernails today and wondering how much longer he'd have to sit in court listening to two teen-age girls tell unprintable tales about him.

The women charged two others who were selected as jurors with deceit and perjury in their anxiety to hear the case of Flynn. The judge will consider their accusations Monday and decide whether a new jury will have to be chosen and the testimony repeated.

While 17-year-old Betty Hansen was telling of an evening with Flynn in a Bel Air bedroom the Mmes. Emily Blue, Gussie Rowe and Harriet Ponder were sitting in a nearby office talking over the trial and the reasons of the opposing attorney for excusing them from service.

What they couldn't understand was why two other women were accepted. They put on their bonnets, trooped to the district attorney's office and filed affidavits charging perjury against Miss Elaine Forbes and Mrs. Lorene Boehm.

The only trouble seemed to be that the three couldn't get their stories to agree about Miss Forbes, the smartly dressed secretary to a radio executive.

Mrs. Rowe said Miss Forbes wanted to acquit Flynn and said so before she was made a juror. Mrs. Ponder said she wanted to convict him.

"I just must get on that jury," Mrs. Rowe quoted Miss Forbes adding that she'd reported illness to keep from being a juror in other cases pending and that she'd said she could not stand it if Flynn were sent to prison.

Mrs. Blue's statement agreed in every detail with that of Mrs. Rowe, but Mrs. Ponder heard something entirely different.

"Miss Forbes said to me several times," she said, "'If we get on the Flynn jury we will fix him good, won't we, Mrs. Ponder?'"

Mrs. Ponder added that young Mrs. Boehm had seemed excited about the prospect of seeing Flynn face to face and had invited her to go downstairs for a look.

For Flynn 'in a Big Way.'

"I went along to the floor below," Mrs. Ponder continued, "but I didn't go all the way. Mrs. Boehm joined the crowd around Mr. Flynn and when she came back she said:

"'I am for Errol Flynn in a big way.'"

Flynn's trial was droning along with testimony concerning what Flynn and Miss Hansen, the blond waitress, were doing behind a locked bathroom door. Prosecutor Thomas Cochran received the affidavits, glanced through them and asked for a mistrial.

Court Adjourned.

Judge Leslie E. Still adjourned court at once and Flynn asked: "What does this mean?" His attorneys explained and he cracked:

"I don't mind rooters in the jury box but they ought to keep their mouths shut."

Jerry Giesler, his lawyer, called the development a blow and an injustice to Flynn.

"Of course, we do not want to proceed if there are any prejudiced jurors on the panel," he said, "but it is very unfair of them to have forced him to go halfway through the trial and then make him go through it all over again."

Housewives Crowd Errol Flynn's Trial

Special Correspondence

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 12.—Hollywood housewives packed the courtroom to overflowing yesterday as counsel picked a jury to try Errol Flynn on statutory rape charges. Counsel for the film star promised that the film star would give a "frank and personal" defense and asked each man and woman on jury panel:

"Would you be prejudiced against the defense due to the fact that counsel would have to ask many intimate sexual questions of these girls?"

Betty Hanson, 17-year-old high school student from Lincoln, Neb., who charges that Flynn had relations with her at a Hollywood party, occupied a front row seat, dressed in a girlish-looking slipover sweater and brown flowered skirt. Peggy Larue Satterlee, who says Flynn attacked her twice in the cabin of his yacht when she was 15, also attended.

No Sign of Tears, Says 2d Yacht Girl

By FREDERICK C. OTHMAN,
United Press Staff Correspondent.

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 26.—Mrs. Elaine Patterson, the other girl on Errol Flynn's celebrated yachting trip, insisted today that if anything untoward befell 16-year-old Peggy Satterlee aboard the Sirocco it didn't show on Peggy's gay, laughing face.

Mrs. Patterson, a "car hop" at a drive-in restaurant, in resuming her testimony at Flynn's trial on charges of statutory rape, declared:

"I saw no tears."

Prosecutor Thomas Cochran sought in his cross-examination to involve Warner Brothers Motion Picture Studios in the case when he asked Mrs. Patterson:

"Didn't you tell us that a statement had been written up for you by the Warner Brothers Studios for you to sign because you did not believe it to be true?"

She insisted she had said no such thing. She went on to testify that Flynn spent most of his time on deck steering the Sirocco and that he seemed to be suffering [illegible] sinus trouble.

Next witness was Pvt. Martin E. Ross, who, before being drafted, was night bellhop at the Hotel Harvey, where Betty Hansen, the other complainant against Flynn, lived until her arrest.

Errol Flynn Declares He Will Be Personal And Frank On Stand

LOS ANGELES, (AP)—A seaman aboard Screen Actor Errol Flynn's yacht was among witnesses summoned to testify Monday as the ac-

[illegible] Peggy Larue Satterlee, who was attacked by Flynn in August, he wanted to tell his story before the Grand Jury when investigation of charges made by witness. If [illegible] Sirocco that Peggy's testimony probably will not be [illegible] night club entertainers who says [illegible] only 16, she was attacked by Flynn [illegible] last September. Gieseler said Flynn, who declared [illegible] 17-year-old Betty Hansen charges [illegible] club as witnesses is Fred Evry, former British bobsleds to be "frank and personal" [illegible] cer, at whose Bel Air home on the witness stand

Crosses U. S. to See Flynn

REWARD OF GREAT EFFORT—Patricia Hovey, a rodeo rider who hitchhiked from Newark, N. J., to Los Angeles to see the Errol Flynn trial, gets the defendant's autograph. Court attaches found her a choice seat when she was unable to squeeze through the crowd in court after her long journey. (Story on Page 4)

World-Telegram
New York, N. Y.

Two Men on Jury Held Out For 'Guilty' Nearly 24 Hours; 9 Women Never Wavered

FEB 6 - 1943

By FREDERICK OTHMAN,
United Press Staff Correspondent.

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 6.—Errol Flynn was acquitted of triple charges of statutory rape today by a jury of nine women and three men who refused to believe the stories of two movie-struck girls who said they had been intimate with the movie hero.

"Wonderful news," sighed Flynn. "Just wonderful."

The jury had deliberated almost 24 hours after it received the case shortly before noon yesterday. The nine housewives and three elderly men filed into the court at 11 a. m. today and announced, in effect, that they did not believe the charges of Peggy Satterlee, 16, and Betty Hansen, 17.

Flynn had paced the halls of the courthouse nervously 11 hours yesterday and three more today, too jittery to go away and wait.

Mrs. Ruby Ann Anderson, the foreman, announced the verdict, taking up first the charge preferred by Miss Hansen, who said Flynn attacked her in a Bel Air mansion, and then the two charges of Miss Satterlee, who insisted the movie hero violated her twice aboard his yacht, Sirocco.

Triple Verdict.

"Not guilty," said Mrs. Anderson; "not guilty, and not guilty."

Flynn almost leaped out of his seat when Mrs. Anderson announced her final "not guilty."

"Gosh," he said, "I felt like whooping." FEB 6 1943

Flynn had sat in court for almost a solid month hearing himself denounced by the state as a violator of young girls, who told lurid tales of how he had undressed and attacked them.

"But this just goes to show," he said, "that there is justice in the United States. And am I glad that I now am a citizen of this country."

Two Men Held Out.

The court was locked. When the verdicts were received finally by Clerk E. C. Averre, Judge Leslie Still adjourned one of the longest trials of its kind in Los Angeles, and immediately the flash bulbs began to boom and crackle as photographers smashed them on the floor in their hurry to record Flynn's jubilation.

The press corps dashed from the room as to a three-alarm fire, while the spectators cheered, crowded around the handsome Flynn and thumped his back.

The jury reached its verdict only 15 minutes before it entered the court. FEB 6 - 1943

Early yesterday all nine of the housewives and one of the men agreed that the movie hero was an honest man who told the truth when he said he had no relations with either of the girls. However, two of the elderly men held out and held out—and held out—until even Flynn's attorneys began to wonder whether the case would result in a hung jury.

Confident of Justice.

When Flynn finally got a chance to get his breath he gulped a couple of times and made a more formal statement.

"My confidence in American justice kept me hoping for such a verdict," he said. "I realized the fairness of the court and I was confident that a right verdict would be brought in."

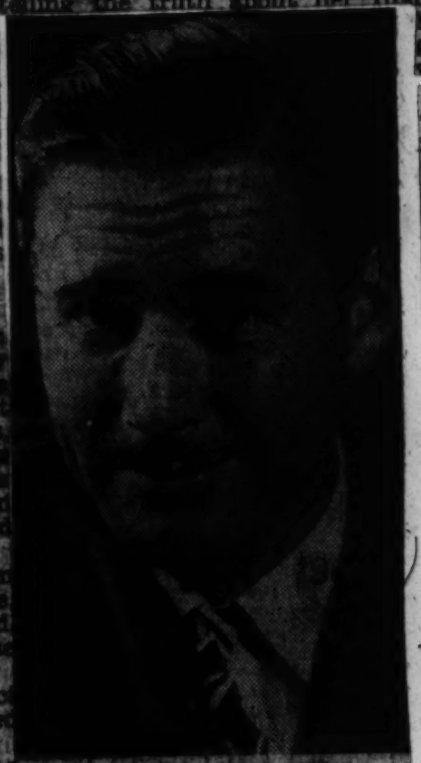
His attorney, Jerry Giesler, known as one of America's most successful criminal lawyers, said he was "very happy for my client."

"I was convinced of his innocence and the jury's verdict bears out my contention," he said.

Mr. Giesler went down the line, shaking hands with each juror and introducing Flynn to everyone. The women beamed.

Judge Enjoyed It.

The jurors said they threw out Miss Hansen's charges at once, decided immediately to ignore Miss Satterlee's second accusation of being lured below deck to view the moon through a porthole, and began to wonder whether she was telling the truth about her first



Errol Flynn

experience, in which she said Flynn burst into her cabin.

"But we finally decided that couldn't be murder," said one of the dissenting jurors.

They all agreed that they had been under a serious strain and said that they had tried hard not to read anything about the case.

"This was difficult," said one of the jurors, "but I believe we managed it."

"Thank you for your long service," Judge Still said to the jury. "I have enjoyed the case and I think you have.

"The evidence in this case was sufficient for you to have rendered a verdict in either direction. Under the circumstances, I think you have arrived at the proper verdict."

Women Told the Men.

Some of the jurors seemed to be almost trembling as they listened to their verdict being read. FEB 6 1943

"And I guess we were, too," said Mrs. Teresa Wright.

She added that throughout the deliberations, the jurors remained cordial.

"Of course," she said, "there were one or two who had to be convinced, but they were perfectly willing to listen."

Mrs. Anderson, the foreman, said that what really brought on the verdict was the nine women got together for a full and frank discussion, as married women, of the medical testimony concerning Miss Satterlee's condition.

Mobbed by Admirers.

"And after we had talked it all over thoroughly," she said, "we told the men our findings, that we did not believe Mr. Flynn could have done those things to this girl. I am glad to say the men were able to agree with us."

More than 30 minutes after the verdict was in Flynn decided to make a dash for home. He left the courtroom with Mr. Giesler but was surrounded immediately by a small mob of semi-hysterical women. FEB 6 1943

They clung to his coat tails and hung to his lapels. Those behind fought to get closer.

"I just want to touch him," cried one young girl.

Flynn eventually moved to the elevators, with his crowd of feminine admirers still clinging around him.

Deputy Prosecutor John Hopkins, who had orated for hours about how guilty he believed Flynn was, was having a cup of coffee when the jury reached its decision. When finally he learned that the verdict was being delivered, he rushed to the courtroom, where bailiffs refused to let him in. He remained outside, fuming, and when he learned the nature of the verdict stalked away. FEB 6 - 1943

When Flynn eventually got rid of his admirers he said he probably would go to Mexico for a rest.

"I've got to get my health back," he said, referring to his 4-F draft rating. "Then I've got this military mission in Europe. Nope, I just can't tell what it is about."

Of Miss Hansen, the prosecutor said: "This little girl was all eyes, coming from the mediocrity of a modest family in the Midwest and meeting the glamour man of all glamour men, Errol Flynn."

Of Miss Satterlee: "The defense will take this little girl and tear her apart. They will tear her limb from limb and throw her out the window. You may expect that."

FEB 3 - 1943

Betty Hansen or Peggy Satterlee, or both, before they were 16 to protect minor sexual relations with Flynn had FEB 3 - 1943 whether they said Yes or No. They

"This law was designed ence whether their consent to sexual acts. Any

"It makes no differ- under

FEB 3 - 1943

Lawyers' Day In Flynn Case

FEB 3 - 1943

P. M. Daily New York

Special Correspondence

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 3.—The eloquent lawyers in the Errol Flynn case are in fine fettle, apparently determined to stretch out the closing arguments through the fourth week of the trial.

Prosecutor Thomas Cochran held the floor all day yesterday, talking himself hoarse, and summed up with the declaration that the only question at issue was

The court recessed this morning for the funeral of District Attorney John Dockweiler, who died of pneumonia while directing the Flynn prosecution.

After the funeral the prosecutors will get in a few more oratorical licks.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

Actor's Thanks for Acquittal

[Associated Press Wirephoto.]

Errol Flynn shaking hands with Mrs. Ruby Anderson after jury of which she was foreman had acquitted him of three rape charges. Mrs. Mildred Leahy (seated beside Mrs. Anderson) and Mrs. Lena A. Morgan and Mrs. Jennie Larson (seated left to right in rear) also served on the jury.

Flynn Fate Put In Hands of Jury

N. Y. World-Telegram

Actor Is Fidgety As Judge Points Out Legal Issues

By FREDERICK OTHMAN,
United Press Staff Correspondent.

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 5.—The trial of Errol Flynn, accused on three counts of statutory rape, went to a jury shortly before noon today while the handsome movie hero fidgeted in his seat in the courtroom.

Judge Leslie E. Still cautioned the nine women and three men on the jury to remember that consent is no mitigating circumstance when it involves 'teen-age girls, such as the 17-year-old Betty Hansen and the 18-year-old Peggy Satterlee, who accused Flynn.

FEB 5 - 1943

"You jurors, of course," he said, "are not required to believe anything as jurors that you would not believe in the ordinary walk of life. And I must insist that you have an abiding conviction

Betty Hansen, Erroll Flynn and Peggy Satterlee.

to a moral certainty before you can reach any decision."

Judge Still considered the first of three points of statutory rape—the one presented by Miss Hansen, who said she submitted to the

Malice Issue Recognized.

"Even if Miss Hansen consented," he continued, "that is no extenuating circumstance in this case."

Judge Still told the jurors that mere opportunity for a criminal attack was not sufficient to create legal probability that such an incident did occur.

California law in such cases also recognizes that there is an opportunity for free play of personal malice and vengeance, he added.

"Under the state law abortion is a felony," the judge said. "If you believe that Miss Satterlee is guilty of such an act, then you have the right to take into consideration her state of mind while testifying in this court.

Six Possible Verdicts.

"Also if you believe that Miss Hansen engaged in an illegal act with a man, you may consider the effect upon her mind and her statements. You may consider the possibility that both girls were hoping for leniency.

Judge Still said the jury could consider six possible verdicts, guilty or not guilty on each of the three counts. He asked the jury also to decide the place of punishment—county jail or state penitentiary—if a guilty verdict should be returned.

FEB 5 - 1943

The nine women and three men on the jury brought their tooth brushes to court, prepared for a lengthy stay while they deliberated charges preferred by 16-year-old Peggy Satterlee and 17-year-old Betty Hansen.

When court convened, the jurors, who may send the defendant to state's prison for a maximum of 50 years, had only a little more than an hour to hear Deputy District Attorney John Hopkins' final arguments denouncing Flynn.

"I've got butterflies in my stomach," Flynn said as Hopkins began the final session denouncing him for allegedly attacking Miss Satterlee aboard his yacht, and Miss Hansen in the Bel Air home of his friend, Fred McEvoy.

"I want to call your attention to the loss of memory of this man Flynn," Hopkins began, "this defendant who couldn't even remember which room on his boat was occupied by Miss Satterlee.

Perjury Questioned.

"Bear in hind that this man is an actor, used to memorizing, used to taking parts, and still he said he could not remember which cabin he assigned to his guest.

"Even his own counsel didn't know he had such a bad memory."

"And can you say honestly," Hopkins demanded, "that Miss Satterlee committed out and out perjury when she told of the incident of Flynn creeping into her cabin in the early morning hours, clad in pajamas, and crawling into bed with her?

"Do you think she just made that up?"

Hopkins said he agreed Flynn was a man of talent.

"But what about his principles?" he cried. "I don't think he has any."

FEB 5 - 1943

Closes Argument.

The prosecutor wound up his closing arguments with a comparison of Flynn and Joe Jackson, the baseball player who once "threw" a world's series.

"And a little newsboy came up to him and said 'say it ain't so Joe.'" Hopkins recalled. "Joe didn't reply, he just turned away.

"And that is what this defendant will do. He'll have to turn away. He cannot tell the truth. He does not dare."

Judge Still immediately began issuing his instruction to the jury, locking the doors of the court until he had finished.

Flynn was biting his fingernails when the judge began.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

ERROL FLYNN ACQUITTED.

The jury that acquitted Errol Flynn seems to have returned the verdict that most people in this country thought was right in the circumstances. A verdict of guilty would have been widely resented as unfair, not because very many people thought for a moment that Flynn was above reproach in the matter but because the statute under which he was tried assumes a lot of things that aren't necessarily true.

The statute says that extramarital sexual relations with a girl under 18 constitute rape. No doubt the legislators who proposed that law felt they had struck a blow on behalf of purity and innocence. No doubt any of the legislators who may have questioned the wisdom of placing the age of consent at 18 were denounced as the enemies of womanhood and the friends of immorality. And so the law was enacted.

Many parallels could be cited. Prohibition of course is one. The Mann act is another. The foes of prohibition were denounced as the friends of debauchery. What right minded man could doubt that alcohol was a home wrecker? To oppose a law forbidding the transport of women across state lines for immoral purposes was denounced as a vote in favor of brothels and brothel keepers.

Only after these laws were enacted did it become apparent how unrealistic were the so-called reforms. Only then was it discovered that public opinion did not condemn drinking to the extent of regarding traffic in alcohol as a serious crime; and only then did it become apparent that the Mann act was to be used rather as an instrument of blackmail than as a measure to prevent the so-called white slave traffic.

FEB 9 - 1943

Legislators make a serious mistake when they enact laws which seek to establish norms of conduct that idealize mankind. The fact is that there are many young women under the age of 18—and not all of them in California—who by no stretch of the imagination can be regarded as innocents. A law that pretends that such young women are the innocent victims of male depravity is an absurdity on the face of it and no jury is likely to convict the man who happens to be caught. The possibility that such laws will be used for purposes of blackmail is obvious.

The lesson of the Errol Flynn case is one for legislators to heed. Before voting they should consider such facts as the recent revelation that venereal disease is increasing among schoolgirls in New York to the point where public health officials are alarmed. That doesn't argue that the crime of statutory rape should be erased from the books, but it does suggest all too plainly that many young women are dissipated and that a law which assumes they aren't is not likely to work very well. The age of consent should bear a reasonable relationship to the facts rather than the romantic ideals of the society it is intended to regulate.

FEB 9 - 1943

JAN 19 1943

He Put on a Good Act, Police Say of Flynn

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 19.—Police testified today that Errol Flynn he had been charged with statutory rape, he choked on a drink of Scotch whisky and spluttered and cried: "Good God!"

Lieutenant Bowling said he "Little Walked Out Blonde.'

"Knapp said sure he did, the little girl he met at Fred McEvoy's dinner party. And then somebody—I'm not sure, whether Lieutenant Bowling said he then took Flynn to Juvenile Hall to confront the Bacon girl.

37m-1943
World-Telegram
New York, N. Y.

CALIFORNIA (Flynn)

7/06

Flynn Counsel Scents Something Peculiar in Accusers' Stories

FEB 6 - 1943

Deputy District Attorney Thomas Cochran (left) is shown as he was concluding his argument be fore the Los Angeles jury in the case of Errol Flynn (right), while the defendant and his attorney FEB 6 1943 heed.

Photo by Acme Newspictures.

Shouts Himself Hoarse Over Thought Testimony

By FREDERICK C. OTHMAN,
United Press Staff Correspondent.

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 4.—Attorney Jerry Giesler took up verbal cudgels again today against the character, reliability and honesty of the two teen-age girls charging Errol Flynn with statutory rape.

Giesler was a little hoarse; he already spent all of yesterday afternoon shouting denunciations of Peggy Satterlee, 16-year-old showgirl, and Betty Hansen, 17-year-old waitress who wanted to be a movie actress.

Case Called Vague.

While Flynn gazed somberly at the floor, Giesler started his final session of oratory by reading from the transcript of the month-long trial. It proved, he said, that the case against Flynn was "uncertain, vague and indefinite."

All the testimony of Miss Hansen and her corroborative witnesses, he continued, was of the "I think" and "I thought" variety.

"It wasn't worth that," Giesler shouted, snapping his fingers with a noise like a revolver shot. He added:

"Isn't there something peculiar about this Hansen business? About this Hansen changing her stories before the grand jury and before this court? About the fact she knew, before she ever filed these charges, that she could be sent to the state reformatory until she was 21?

'Glad to Testify.'

"For that matter, we must not forget that the Satterlee girl also was in jeopardy. She knew she could be put away for submitting to an abortion. Naturally, these girls wanted their freedom. Naturally they were glad to testify against my client, anybody, to steer attention away from themselves."

"How did she get to the kernel of the Hansen case in a nutshell? She is a movie-struck girl . . . who hopes, by testifying right not to be prosecuted. . . .

'There Was No Case.'

"Actually the investigators who brought her to Juvenile Hall realized the (Flynn) case wasn't worth the paper it was written on. So what did they do? They went to the Florentine Gardens and got this dancing girl, this Peggy Satterlee. The sheriff's office had heard her story a year before, and it had taken no action. Why? Because there was no case.

"Only a few months before the police took Peggy into custody she had had an illegal operation. Nothing was done by the authorities until she had participated in this criminal act."

Satterlee Girl 'Wise.'

Giesler said the brunet Miss Satterlee was wise in the ways of the world—16 years old perhaps physically but older than that in her mind.

"Her mother let her work all night in the hot spots," he continued; "let her live alone in Hollywood, let her go with a 43-year-old man who said he wasn't married [illegible] testified he was.

"That girl was wise. You saw her turn and laugh when I showed her the picture taken of her in pigtails. Here we have a man on trial for his very existence and she comes into court in pigtails and has her picture taken.

'Stuck to Her Lie.'

"She knows she is guilty of a criminal act, that a boy friend she must love is in danger if she doesn't play ball.

"No, I don't say the officers told her to lie. But I do say this girl who once told a lie felt she must stick to it.

"When I [illegible] about her abortion. She was afraid to say it wasn't so, because she knew I would call the man into court. I don't intend to name him. I'm not the prosecutor. But there has not been any prosecution of this man."

Giesler then climbed ponderously onto the witness stand, sat down and in a low voice aping the inflections of Miss Satterlee talked as [illegible] talked to herself.

'Loves Her Freedom.'

"I think she must have talked like this to her own soul," he said. "She must have said to herself that 'if I testify the right way, maybe nothing is going to happen to Mr. X. Maybe nothing will happen to me. Maybe I'll go free.'"

Giesler stamped down to the floor, faced the jury and shouted:

"Peggy loves her freedom and Peggy loves a man well enough to ask them not to prosecute him. Errol Flynn makes good newspaper copy. The prosecutor himself called him a glamour man. Maybe this Mr. X might not make such big headlines if he were hauled into court."

The half-bald Giesler was perspiring profusely as he continued his denunciation of Miss Satterlee. A girl he said was so smart in the ways of the world she could give us all aces and spades."

As for Miss Hansen, he said, even her story about Flynn undressing himself, all but his shoes, was indicative of her kind of testimony.

Today

Errol Flynn Defense Sums Up

By FREDERICK C. OTHMAN,
United Press Staff Correspondent.

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 3.—Errol Flynn's lawyers sought today to [illegible] in the minds of the jury the demands of Prose[illegible] that the man who [illegible] their downfall be [illegible] to the [illegible]

Flynn looked worried almost for the first time since his trial started early last month.

His lawyer, Jerry Giesler, was on his feet objecting repeatedly to Mr. Cochran's harping on Miss Satterlee's virginity before the Still unrebuked:

"Let's make no further reference to [illegible] you," he told the jury. "I've kept this man to prison for the jury to decide."

Court was in recess during the morning for the funeral of District Attorney John F. Dockweiler who had called Flynn "the most dazzling man of all glamour men," to the first yachting trip, attacked Miss Satterlee with [illegible] of her virtue. Then he started her on the road [illegible] the case until Monday, about a

World-Telegram
New York, N. Y.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

JUDGE AND WINNER—Grateful Errol Flynn shakes the hand of Judge Leslie Still, who presided at trial, after a jury of nine women and three men acquitted the movie star of three counts of a statutory charge, involving Peggy Larue Satterlee and Betty Hansen, 17. Judge Still told jurors: "I enjoyed this case and I think you did, too." This is a phonephoto.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

PRESENT . . . BUT "SAW NOTHING!"

Appearing as a foremost witness in the Errol Flynn morals case of nationwide interest, in which the talented screen idol was accused of misconduct with "teen-aged" girls, now on trial in a Los Angeles court, is glam-orous Agnes "Chichi" Toupes, talented dancer and singer, who took the stand during the course of the trial and asserted that to her knowledge, nothing happened between the actor and his young female accusers.—Photo by Earl Griffin. JAN 30 1943

37m-1943

CALIFORNIA

7107

Birmingham Post
Birmingham, Alabama

BOY, 15, IS FREED IN SOLDIER'S DEATH

FEB 10 1943

By United Press.

SAN MIGUEL, Cal., Feb. 10.—Civilian and Army authorities today exonerated Daniel Glecier, 15, who shot to death Pvt. Forrest I. Gibbs, 26, Danville, Va., when the soldier attempted to attack the boy's mother.

FEB 10 1943

Daniel, the son of Lieut. Lewis Glecier of Camp Roberts, Cal., fired a .22-caliber bullet into the soldier's chest when he burst open the door of their auto court cabin and seized Mrs. Nathalie Glecier, 34. Gibbs, a Camp Roberts field artillery trainee, died instantly.

Young Glecier said he had fired one shot into the floor of the cabin as a warning when he heard someone attempting to enter. In relieving Glecier of responsibility, Army authorities officially recognized Gibb's attempted criminal assault. Lieutenant Glecier was not at home.

FEB 10 1943

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

WHITE MAN RAPES GIRL ON STREET

MAY 7 1943

LOS ANGELES, Mar. 5 (ANP) —Invading a district that is nearly all colored, a white man waylaid and raped an 18 year old colored girl last week on a public street, making his escape before anyone could come to her rescue. The victim who reported the crime to police immediately afterwards was Miss Rose Evernous but her attacker is unknown. However she gave investigators a good description of him and in the city-wide dragnet that was thrown out he is expected to be captured shortly.

MAY 7 1943

Miss Evernous was walking home about 11:30 when suddenly the rapist stepped out of the shadows behind her and seized her by the throat to prevent her screaming. Choking her he threatened to kill her if she did not stop struggling or made an outcry.

MAY 7 1943

Being in a sparsely settled section of the street, he dragged her from the sidewalk, threw her to the ground and started to ravish her. However becoming alarmed by approaching pedestrians he released her and fled, before completing his act.

Man Rapes Girl, 18, On Public Highway

March 13 1943

Philadelphia Tribune, Pa

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March 13, 1943

Physicians at General hospital where the girl was taken bore out her testimony that she had been assaulted. She described her assailant as stocky in build, wearing glasses dressed in a light shirt with sleeveless sweater, and dark trousers.

Lina Basquette Tells Of Attack

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

MUROC AIR BASE, CALIF., Aug. 25.—(AP)—Lina Basquette, actress of the silent screen era, became so distraught at an Army court martial today that the courtroom was cleared as she came to the climax of her testimony against Pvt. George Paul Rimke, 22, of Cleveland, Ohio, charged with assault. Rimke was declared innocent.

Miss Basquette testified that she gave the soldier a lift in her automobile in Burbank.

The witness, identifying herself as Lina Basquette Mollison, said Rimke took over the wheel after they had driven awhile, and parked the car on a Burbank street. She said he then took the ignition keys out and lunged at her.

Miss Basquette told the Army court that she became hysterical at that time and did not know whether she retained consciousness or not. She said she believed he forced her into the back seat.

It was at this point in her testimony that the courtroom was cleared of spectators.

After regaining her composure the witness resumed her testimony and said it was apparently during her period of unconsciousness that the alleged act of intimacy occurred. She testified she later was forced from her car and the soldier drove away.

The former actress said her husband, Henry Mollison, a British actor, was a prisoner of war in Germany and she did not know if he was alive. Miss Basquette, 34, is the mother of a 9-year-old son.

Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.

Rapist Flees; Police Guard Ex-Actress

Lina Basquette Watched As Soldier Breaks Jail

Los Angeles, Sept. 10 (AP)—Civil authorities guarded the home of Lina Basquette, former screen star, today after the escape from the March Field, Calif., guardhouse of Pvt. George P. Rimke, under sentence to life imprisonment on his court-martial conviction last month of raping her.

After his conviction at the Muroc, Calif., air base, Rimke defiantly shouted, "I'll get you if it's the last thing I do," reporting, Army officers said to Miss Basquette and Capt. George H. Rawlins, assistant judge advocate who prosecuted him.

March Field authorities would not disclose how Rimke escaped. A spokesman said simply that no one was injured.

Sheriff Carl Rayburn of Riverside County said Rimke was last reported seen at 6 p.m. yesterday.

Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.

Soldier Accused of Raping Actress Lina Basquette

Hollywood, Aug. 20 (U.P.)—Burbank police announced today that military authorities at Muroc Army bombing base had preferred court martial charges against a soldier for allegedly raping Lina Basquette, star of silent films.

Miss Basquette, 34, who made her acting debut [illegible] the Ziegfeld Follies, said she offered the soldier a ride in North Hollywood August 7. He made advances, she told police, and demanded her automobile.

The actress reported she attempted to dissuade the soldier, but he pushed her out of the driver's seat and drove to a darkened street where he attacked her.

Miss Basquette claimed she was thrown from her car.

Police said the soldier admitted taking the car and attacking Miss Basquette.

7108

CAN'T REMEMBER SLAYING GIRL, 3, SAYS SERGEANT

Tribune
Chicago Ill.
DEC 9, 1943

Rape Victim's Body in His Room.

Denver, Colo., Dec. 8 (AP).—A 34 year old army cook insisted today he was drunk and remembered nothing about a 3 year old girl whose body was found under the kitchen sink of her Englewood apartment.

The soldier, Staff Sgt. Frank Martz of Fort Logan, is charged with murdering Kathleen Ann Geist after luring her fro ma tavern Monday night with soft drinks and the promise of a toy rabbit.

Enticed to Apartment.

District Atty. Richard Simon, in a statement to reporters, related:

While Kathleen's mother, Mrs. Ann Geist, 27, played a mechanical game with friends in a tavern, Martz enticed the girl to his apartment.

There Martz struck Kathleen on her head with a blunt instrument. Some time thereafter he took a stout cord, wrapped it around the little girl's neck, choking her. He thereafter raped the little girl, evidenced by many scratches and other wounds on the body.

Seen by Policeman.

Meantime the mother, who said her husband is a soldier in Australia, reported Kathleen's disappearance to Patrolman George Fritsinger. Fritsinger, who knew Martz, had seen the soldier and the girl on the street earlier. The patrolman and two military policemen found Martz at home and took him to the Englewood jail for questioning. They returned to the apartment, still looking for Kathleen, and found her body.

Officials said Martz had been a carnival and circus cook, and recently visited his wife in Aberdeen, S. D., on furlough.

Martz told officers his home was in Sunbury, Pa., where he was inducted in 1941.

37m-1943 D.C.

7109

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

...ewing Appeals Rape Conviction

JAN 20 1943

...Ewing, 58-year-old ... political figure who was ...victed a year ago of the rape ...a Government girl in a lodging ...e here, yesterday asked the ...preme Court to hear his appeal. ...Attorney James J. Laughlin sub...itted Ewing's plea to the high ...rt. Ewing was sentenced to ...o 24 years in prison. The United ...tes Court of Appeals here up...s the conviction.

JAN 20 1943

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

...e Suspect, Out ...Bond, Arrested ...Second Charge

FEB 15 1943

A ...-year-old Fairfax County ... released under $10,000 bond ...ing his appeal from a convic... in Fairfax Circuit Court last ...mber on a charge of rape, has ...e rearrested by Prince William ...y authorities on a second ...e of rape involving a 16-year-... married woman, Fairfax police ...ed yesterday. FEB 15 194

...e man, Leonard Robinson, a ...r resident of Alexandria, was ... in custody in Arlington on ... morning after a general ... had been broadcast by ... William police. He was al... to have attacked the young ... near Manassas, Va., early ... FEB 15 1943 ...owing his conviction in the ... Court, Robinson was sen... to 15 years in the peniten... but was released under bond ... his attorney appealed the ver... No date had been set for ... of the appeal.

...rglar Raped ... Avondale

Post
...Washington, D. C

...e Reports ... Intruder ...de Her Tie Up ...Stole $40

...George County police ... investigating the re...

...port of a ... woman ... of Avondale, Md., that she had been ...aped by a burglar who had forced ...er from her bed in which her hus...band was sleeping, after ordering ...he to tie the husband with his own ...necktie, and then robbed them of ...$40 in cash and a watch.

The woman said she was awak...ened about 4:30 yesterday morning ...when she heard a dresser drawer in ...the bedroom slam. When she ...switched on the light, she said she ...saw a tall, white man, wrapped in ...one of her blankets, wearing black ...gloves, a black handkerchief over ...his face and no hat.

In guttural accents he warned ...her he would shoot her if she made ...any noise, she told police.

He compelled her to crawl from ...the bed without awakening her ...husband, tie the sleeping man ...with neckties and then submit to ...being tied in turn by the burglar. ...The man then tied the husband ...further and gagged him with a ...tie, according to her story.

He cut the telephone wires and ...forced her into the kitchen where ...he criminally assaulted her, ...wrapped her in another blanket, ...closed the kitchen window, and ...fled out of the back door, she said.

She was unable to give any de...scription of him or the clothing ...he was wearing, other than to say ...he appeared to be over 6 feet tall ...and slender.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

ORDERS CHARGE OF RAPE AGAINST SUSPENDED COP

NOV 30 1942

Samuel Papanek, assistant state's attorney, yesterday ordered police department to place a charge of rape against James Bittner, 31 years old, suspended policeman who was assigned to the Madison avenue station. Bittner was arrested on the complaint of a nurse, 25 years old, that he raped her in her north side apartment after she and the policeman had visited several taverns.

The young woman said Bittner threatened her with his revolver, and that she screamed after he locked the door of her flat. Bittner denied raping the young woman. He said they had visited several taverns but that he had left her in the lobby of her apartment hotel. Bittner is married and lives at 534½ Belmont avenue. He has been on the police force five years.

Papanek said Bittner had refused to take a lie detector test without consulting a lawyer. He said the young woman agreed to such a test.

RAPE AND BURGLARY CHARGED TO SUSPECT

New York, N. Y.

Brooklyn Man Accused of Attack [illegible] Army Corporal

New York Times

Harold Rouda, 26 years old, of 2054 Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn, was booked yesterday at the Parkville station, Brooklyn, on charges of rape, burglary, possession of burglar's tools and violation of the Sullivan Law.

Capt. John J. McGowan of the Brooklyn Homicide Squad said that Rouda, who was arrested Saturday afternoon, had admitted after long questioning that he had attacked the 23-year-old wife of an Army corporal at 2 A. M. Thursday in the woman's apartment at 105 Buckingham Road, Brooklyn.

Captain McGowan said the prisoner, who is married and the father of one child, admitted he had broken into the corporal's apartment and had struck the woman three times on the head with a homemade blackjack. He escaped with a small quantity of cash and jewelry, according to the police.

The [illegible] said that Rouda was questioned in connection with the killing last Feb. 9 of Mrs. Nehamah Baranow, 35, who was attacked in an automatic elevator in her apartment house at 260 Ocean Avenue, Brooklyn, and in the murder in July of Miss Betty Fitleson, 30, in her apartment at 272 Lincoln Place, Brooklyn.

Although Rouda denied knowledge of the two crimes, police said that Miss Alice Clarfield, roommate of Miss Fitleson, who was also beaten in the atack, would be brought to the line-up this morning at Manhattan Police Headquarters in an attempt to identify Rouda as the assailant. Miss Clarfield was released Saturday from Brooklyn Jewish Hospital.

7110

1943
Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

White Soldier Held On Charge Of Negro Girl, 9

MAR 27 1943

TAMPA, Fla.—A white army sergeant, Wesley Carroll, is in the custody of military authorities here, awaiting trial on charges of criminally assaulting a nine-year-old colored girl, it was revealed early this week.

The soldier, a native of Kentucky, is alleged to have attacked the child about two weeks ago. Evidence included positive identification by the youthful victim and discovery of a school lunch in Carroll's automobile. The lunch, police said, tallied with the contents of one the girl's mother asserted she prepared on the day the assault occurred.

MAR 27 1943

Arrest of the man took place at the Cottondale air base when police carried the child there for the purpose of making an identification. Military authorities, acting on the complaint of the police, placed Carroll under arrest.

The soldier is said to have been making his home with his wife at the base. Military authorities are maintaining a discreet silence regarding the case.

FEB 27 1943

7111

HOLD SOLDIER FOR ATTACKING YOUNG MOTHER

Pittsburg Courier
PITTSBURGH PA.

ATLANTA, Ga., April 22 (ANP) —A 20-year-old white soldier listed as Pvt. Alfred R. Thomas of Fort Benning was under arrest at city police headquarters Saturday, charged with criminally attacking a 20-year-old woman who had just been released from the hospital after giving birth to a baby.

According to the victim, whose name the police withheld, the soldier seized her as she stood on a corner waiting for a street car Friday evening and dragged her to a vacant lot at the intersection and attacked her three times.

IDENTIFIED

The victim made her way to the home of a white family nearby, called police and later identified the soldier whom officers arrested a few blocks away.

Police reports described the condition of her clothing as "bloody." Grady hospital physicians examined the victim, recalling that it was just two weeks before that she had been released from the hospital after child birth.

Bleeding profusely, the woman testified how she stumbled onto the porch of a white residence. Police were summoned, capturing Pvt. Thomas a few blocks away from the attack scene. Blood was on his uniform, police testified, though he claimed it was from a cut finger.

The attack occurred on April 9. The victim, suffering from shock and loss of blood, remained in the hospital for more than a week.

MAY 16 1943

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Acquit White Soldier in Rape Of Young Mother

MAY 16 1943

ATLANTA, Ga., May 13.—Twenty-two-year-old Pvt. Alfred R. Thomas, white, was acquitted in Fulton Superior court Tuesday on charges of rape growing out of the attack on a Negro woman, whose name was withheld by police.

The acquittal was in strange contrast with the death penalty meted three Negro soldiers in Louisiana, against whom the evidence presented was not nearly as conclusive as was given against Thomas.

MAY 16 1943

The victim, who two weeks before the attack, had given birth to a daughter, identified the soldier as her assailant. The attack occurred behind a signboard in a vacant lot. She was robbed of $1 after the assault, the victim said

37m-1943

ILLINOIS

7021

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

Girl Beaten by Two Men Taken to County Hospital

FEB 12 1943

Ruth Payne, 17 years old, living at 192d street and Crawford avenue, Flossmoor, was taken to County hospital yesterday suffering from head injuries. She told police she had been beaten by two men who seized her on the street and dragged her into a flat near 18th street and Ashland avenue, where they attempted to rape her.

FEB 12 1943

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

18 YEAR OLDS GET HEARING NOV. 2 ON RAPE CHARGE

Judge N. J. Bonelli in Boys court yesterday continued until Nov. 2 hearing on a charge of rape against George Semeniuk, 16 years old, 6436 South Wood street, and Leo Wesley, 18, of 6550 Honore street.

The complaint against the two was signed by a girl, 15 years old, who said they forced her into their car Oct. 4 as she was returning home from a high school football game at 74th and Western streets. Police yesterday sought a motorist who attempted to rape a girl, 17 years old, early in the day after persuading her to get into his auto-mobile at 21st street and Pulaski road, where she and her brother were selling newspapers. The girl said the man, offering to help her sell papers, drove into a gravel road and put her out of the car after attempting to attack her. She said the man wore a leather jacket.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

DEFERS HEARING OF RAPE CHARGES AGAINST 5 MEN

A hearing of rape charges against five men who are alleged to have abducted a 22 year old woman at 74th street and Western avenue from the female record early Sunday and attacking her in her car was continued yesterday until Sept. 30 by Judge Charles S. Dougherty in felony court. The defendants are Walter Sherrow, 23, 6450 South Justine street; Vincent Sibulski, 38, 6430 South Hermitage avenue; Pvt. Allen Kloppick, 4634 Wallace street; Henry Przybyski, 28, 6424 South Winchester avenue, and John Iural, 23, 4234 South Francisco avenue. Iural is the only one of the five without a police record.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

Ex-Soldier Cleared in Girl Worker's Death

Lie detectives yesterday cleared Bernie J. Berlinski, 33 years old, of all suspicion in connection with the murder of Miss Phyllis Blair, 22, a war plant worker, who was fatally slugged near her home at 4838 North Hoyne avenue nearly two months ago. Berlinski, an ex-soldier, who gave his address as 4459 Woodlawn avenue, is being held for an attempted attack on a young woman.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

HUNT FOUR WHO RAPED DAUGHTER OF FIRE CAPTAIN

Englewood police yesterday were seeking four men who abducted and raped the 17 year old daughter of a fire department captain Friday night. The girl was waiting for a street car at 74th and Aberdeen streets when two of the four men in an auto dragged her into the car. She said they took her to 73d street and Campbell avenue and all attacked her.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

FOUR SLUGGERS SOUGHT AFTER RAPE ATTEMPT

Four [illegible] yesterday morning attempted to rape Mrs. Emmett T. Murray, 26 years old, of 6851 South State street after slugging her and stealing $700 worth of war bonds which she was carrying in her purse, it was reported to Englewood police. Mrs. Murray who suffered a fractured nose and body bruises, said she was waiting for a street car at 74th and Morgan streets when the hoodlums forced her into their automobile. She said the attempts to rape her were made as she was let out of the car one by one on Western avenue.

7112

7112

Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.

Court Backs State Appeal In Sex Case

FEB 18 1943

Directed Verdict Freeing Judge Held In Error

Indianapolis, Feb. 17 (AP)—The Indiana Supreme Court today contained in a seventeen-page opinion, the State's appeal from a directed verdict of not guilty for Knox Superior Judge Herman Robbens, who was charged with sodomy.

The high court's opinion, with Judge Curtis Shake of Vincennes and Martin O'Malley of Huntington not participating, decided only questions of law and did not overturn the lower court verdict. However, the opinion does not mean Judge Robbins will be retired.

FEB 18 1943

The high court held that it was error for the trial judge to withhold from the jury certain evidence offered by the State as to Judge Robbins' alleged misconduct with two young girls.

In this connection, the court said "... The jury must decide upon the credibility of witnesses. If the judge does not believe the testimony on which the verdict is based he may and should set it aside. If the rule should obtain that a judge may direct a verdict in accordance with his opinion as to the weight of the evidence, the result would be denial of a constitutional right of trial."

FEB 18 1943

Criticising conduct of the trial, the supreme court wound up its majority opinion sustaining the State's appeal by saying:

"The State in its briefs has presented the questions from a purely legal standpoint. The brief of appellee (Judge Robbins) abuses the prosecuting attorney for doing what it seems to us he was bound to do if the facts stated in the petition are true. We are not concerned with their truth or with the motives of either party or their counsel. "We have tried to decide a naked question of law as we are required to do in any appeal of this character."

Youth Guilty Of Rape Gets 20-Year Term

OCT 19 1943

Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.

Whitesburg, Ky., Oct. 18 (AP)—Lawrence Hall, 19, pleaded guilty today to a charge of rape, and a Letcher County circuit jury sentenced him to twenty years in the penitentiary.

For a time after the youth's arrest on the charge in late July, he was transferred to jail at Hazard to avert threatened violence.

Special Judge Z. Wells, of Louisville, heard today the first depositions taken in the Letcher County local option election contested by anti-Prohibitionists after they were defeated by forty votes in the county-wide election last May 31.

Reading of the depositions, assembled from testimony by several hundred witnesses, is expected to require the remainder of the week. A decision is expected late this month.

OCT 19 1943

Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.

Rape Charges Against 2 Continued Until Oct. 31

Charges of rape against Harlen Burden, 21, Patton Court, and Lester Hack, 22, of the 100 block of Jacob, were continued until October 31 in Police Court Wednesday. They were accused of raping a 16-year-old girl early Tuesday morning on a road near Algonquin Parkway. The 16-year-old boy faced delinquency and rape charges in Juvenile Court, although he was accused of driving the automobile and not of the actual assault. The girl swore out warrants against Hack and Burden.

Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.

Held As Rapist Taken To Hazard for Safekeeping

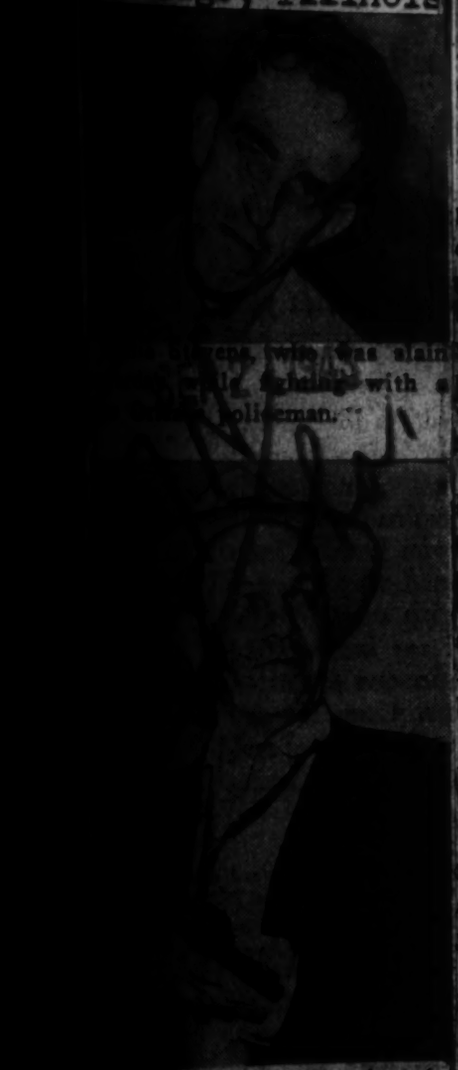
WHITESBURG (AP)—Sheriff Talbert Tolly announced that Lawrence Hall, 19, arraigned today on a charge of rape, had been taken to Hazard for safekeeping.

Hall was arrested after the alleged attack Saturday night, waived examining trial and was held to the grand jury without bond by County Judge B. [illegible]. Tolly said there had been no threats of violence, but that feelings were running pretty high."

7089

Rapist Slain

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois



...eps, who was slain ...ing fighting with a ...policeman."

...Joseph Vigurie, who ...ens while riding in a ...

SEP 2 1943

...ted Press Photos.]

...J. F. Vogt, who ...ens the day before ...daughter pointed him ...

...since my child was attacked last July 26." Vogt said. "I lost control and tried to shoot him to death."

Kids Wounded

SEP 2 1943

Rape Suspect in Police Car

New Orleans, La., Sept. 1 (AP).—Willie Stevens, 36 years old, an accused rapist who was shot in the arm yesterday in the police showup by a coast guard officer whose 9 year old daughter identified the suspect as an attacker of young girls, was shot and killed today in a police auto [illegible]

SEP 2 1943

Detective Joseph Vigurie reported to Chief of Detectives John J. Grosch that Stevens became "manical" while being transported in the car from the [illegible] police station to detective headquarters for further questioning and grabbed the barrel of Vigurie's pistol.

"I want to die," Vigurie said Stevens screamed. "Give me your gun."

Grabs Officer's Gun.

Vigurie, who was sitting beside Stevens in the rear seat of the car, said he started grappling with the prisoner.

SEP 2 1943

"When he got control out of hand," Virgurie said, "I took my gun and tried to hit him on the head with it to quiet him. He grabbed the gun and I let him have it."

SEP 2 1943

Detective Frank Weber, who was driving the car, corroborated the story. An examination of the body showed one bullet struck Stevens in the right side and another in the face.

Grosch said no action would be taken either against Vigurie or Lt. Comdr. John P. Vogt, 43, of the coast guard reserve, who fired seven shots from two pistols at Stevens in the showup yesterday.

SEP 2 1943

At the time of the fatal shooting Stevens was swathed in bandages from the wounds inflicted by Vogt's bullets. Several young girl victims of a rapist were present at the showup to try to identify suspects.

Girl Points Him Out.

Vogt's daughter pointed to Stevens at the showup and cried: "Daddy, that's the man."

Vogt then opened fire.

"I have been like a crazy man since my child was attacked last July 26," Vogt told reporters at Groesch's office.

"When my baby cried, 'Daddy, that's the man,' I lost control and tried to shoot him to death."

"Of course," Grosch asserted, "Com. Vogt should not have taken the matter into his own hands. But I know what I would have done if my child had been hurt."

SEP 2 1943

"I know what I would have done if my child had been hurt," Grosch asserted.

Vogt is a brother of Detective George Vogt. In yesterday's shooting Jesse Knecht, police doorman, was struck in the arm by one of the bullets and wounded slightly.

Police said Stevens admitted attacks on at least five girls ranging in age from 9 to 14 years.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Attack Suspect Shot By Victim's Father, Dies In Trying Escape

SEP 1

Officer Shoots Confessed Offender After Child's Dad Seeks Revenge

NEW ORLEANS—(AP)—A police detective shot and killed Wednesday morning the confessed attacker who had been twice wounded Tuesday at the police show-up here by a Coast Guard lieutenant commander whose little daughter had pointed him out with cries of "that's the man."

The dead man was William Stevens, 36, who confessed, police said, to at least five assaults upon young girls enticed to his car with promise of a ride and candy and then threatened with a knife. He was trying to escape, the detective reported.

Meanwhile, Chief of Detectives John J. Grosch said no action would be taken against a Coast Guard officer who calmly fired two pistols at the suspect in the police lineup room Tuesday.

Grosch identified the officer as Lt. Comdr. John P. Vogt, former New Orleans bar pilot. The attack suspect, booked as Willie Stevens, 36, was shot in the left shoulder and the policeman, Jesse Knecht, was wounded slightly in the left arm.

Stevens was on the stage in the lineup room along with several other persons, including Knecht. As Chief Grosch started questioning Stevens, a small girl seated next to Comdr. Vogt screamed "That's the man." Vogt then drew the pistol and opened fire. Later Grosch quoted Vogt as saying "I was determined to do what I did."

"I have been like a crazy man since my child was attacked last July 26," Com. Vogt told reporters at Groesch's office.

"When my baby cried, 'Daddy, that's the man,' I lost control and tried to shoot him to death."

"Of course," Grosch asserted, "Com. Vogt should not have taken the matter into his own hands. But I know what I would have done if my child had been hurt."

SEP 1 1943

Stevens was killed by a bullet fired into his chest by Detective Joseph Vigurie after he had been moved from the Seventh Precinct Police Station to be taken to the detective's headquarters for further questioning.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Policeman Kills Assailant Of Kids

SEP 2 1943

NEW ORLEANS, Sept. 1.—(U.P.)—Willie Stevens, self confessed attacker of five small New Orleans girls, was shot to death by a policeman today.

Stevens was on his way to police headquarters from his jail cell when he attacked his guard, Detective Frank Vigurie. Vigurie shot him three times, in head, chest and shoulder. Police said Stevens shouted "kill me, I want to die" as he tried to take the detective's gun.

The prisoner had wounded in the shoulder yesterday by Lieut. Comdr. John Vogt, U. S. Coast Guard, when Vogt's 9-year-old daughter identified Stevens in the police lineup as her attempted attacker.

The 36-year-old Negro had signed written statements on his arrest Monday, confessing rape and attempted rape on more than 20 New Orleans girls. They ranged from 8 to 14 years in age. Stevens, the father of a 2-year-old girl, told police that he could not explain his actions.

"It started about six months ago," he said. "I can't say why—if anybody did the same thing to my daughter, I'd kill him."

Lieut. Comdr. Vogt was released by police soon after he pumped two gunfulls of bullets into the police "showup platform" yesterday morning. Vogt wounded Stevens only slightly, inflicted a flesh wound on Policeman Jesse Knecht, and sent the rest of his shots wild.

SEP 2 1943

New Orleans [illegible] of duty which [illegible] were evidently fully aware of the extremely dangerous character of their accused prisoner. When they allowed a citizen to invade their confines armed with a pistol, these officers of the law were even more careless and then, to invite attack from their prisoner which necessitated their having to slay him while in their custody is significant indication that they were unmindful of their oath of office as concerns performing their duty to the extent of protecting prisoners in their custody. A well regulated municipality would certainly make a careful investigation of the conduct of such officers.

SEP 2 1943

The courts of our land must be respected and accorded the opportunity to function wholly and freely, and such should prevail as concerns al men, black or white. Verily should pervail as concerns al men, black or white. Verily it does seem that the enactment of Federal laws to deal surely and sternly with people who take the law into their own hands, or with officers of the law who fail in their duty to uphold the law, will be the only certain means of plotting out lynch rule, and, unless the white racial group realizes as much, they will find this terrible evil promptly realized in the New Orleans courts should have been given an opportunity to handle invading their own ranks as was true in the New Orleans

grant deserted rule. They dangerous cha

Lynch Rule Just The Same

Atlanta, Georgia Daily World
(From The East Tennessee News)

DOWN AT NEW ORLEANS, Louisaina, a man charged with the heinous crime of raping a nine-year-old child was shot and seriously wounded as he, along with several other suspects, was paraded before the victims and their parents at police headquarters. The enraged father of the little girl pulled a pistol from his pocket and fired at the accused man just as his little daughter arose and shouted that he was the guilty party. Only one bullet took effect on the accused culprit, but another from the parent's pistol struck one of the city detectives, inflicting a slight wound. A short time later, this evidently dangerous prisoner, while being transported in an automobile from jail to detective headquarters, was shot to death by police officers who charge that they were viciously attacked by their prisoner.

SEP 2 1943

In this instance, the culprit who met his death without being accorded a trial by the courts of Louisiana, was not a Negro, but a member of the White race, which brings

37m-1943

Washington Post
Washington, D. C

Two Men Hunted In Kidnap-Rape Of Md. Student

[illegible], Md., Feb. 3 (AP)—[illegible] police announced today they [illegible] seeking two Midland men in connection with the alleged abduction and rape of a Lonaconing high school girl, 16, who, State's Attorney [illegible] C. Harris said, was [illegible] into an automobile early [illegible] night and taken to near Piedmont, W. Va., where one of the men raped her.

The girl said she was brought back to Lonaconing later. Advising her parents of what had happened, she was brought to a hospital here. She was taken to State's Attorney Harris' office this afternoon, accompanied by a nurse and Sergt. [illegible] C. Carl, of the State police, [illegible] morning.

The girl told him she was accosted by two men standing near an automobile. One placed a hand over her mouth, she told the state's attorney and dragged her into the automobile.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md

Harlem Square Charges Hold Two Men

MAR 20 1943

White, Colored City Employees Accused By School Girls

BALTIMORE. — Two municipal employees, one of them white, were held without bail for grand jury action Friday in Northwestern police court on charges of having improper relations with a group of teen-age girls.

They are Frank Brady, 37, of 3324 Annapolis Avenue, and Charles Chappel, [illegible], of 1415 E. Preston Street. When arraigned before Magistrate Walter Dewees [illegible] pleaded not guilty.

The girls are said to have been committed in the playhouse of Harlem Square during February and early this month.

Brady Accused by 4

Brady, a one-armed caretaker, employed only five weeks, was accused in connection with four of the girls, while Chappel, also employed at the square, faced charges involving two girls. One case against Brady was dismissed when testimony indicated that he had merely attempted relations with one of the girls.

The men are said to have used money and alcohol to influence their victims, one of whom testified that she had been violated by Brady three times and by Chappel once.

A second child said that she had been paid for acting as a lookout.

MAR 20 1943

Mrs. Violet Whyte, policewoman, told the court that she had been investigating the case for two weeks. She revealed that the girls had stayed away from school and frequented the playhouse at times when it was without supervision.

3 SUSPECTS GRILLED IN FATAL STABBING ON AVE.

BALTIMORE — Northwestern District police today (Tuesday) were grilling three suspects in connection with the fatal stabbing of Robert Bacon, Saturday night, in the 1100 block of Pennsylvania Avenue.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md

2 Indicted on Girls' Charges

MAR 27 1943

MAR 27 1943

BALTIMORE

The grand jury this week indicted Frank Brady, 37, white, and Charles Chappel, 34, [illegible] municipal employees, on charges of carnal knowledge of a group of teen-age girls.

Uncovered last week after two weeks of investigation by Mrs. Violet Hill Whyte, policewoman, the alleged crimes were said to have occurred in the playhouse of Harlem Square.

3 Accuse White Man

Brady, one-armed caretaker of the square, who lives at 3324 Annapolis Avenue, is accused of having improper relations with three girls, none of whom is over 14 years old.

MAR 27 1943

Similar accusations from two of the girls are made against Chappel, also employed at the square. He lives at 1415 E. Preston Street.

At the preliminary hearing before Magistrate Walter Dewees in Northwestern police court, it was testified that the two men had used alcohol and money to encourage the girls to submit.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md

Girl Accuses White Man

MAR 20 1943

MAR 20 1943

BALTIMORE

Ishmael Malone, white, of 1704 Eutaw Place, is being held without bail for grand jury action on charges of having criminally attacked a 17-year-old girl Wednesday night.

MAR 20 1943

The girl testified at Northwestern police station Thursday that she was grabbed from behind, gagged and attacked while returning home from work along Wilson Street near Timothy Alley.

She stated that after the attack Malone ran from the scene but that later she saw him enter 1704 Eutaw Place and she followed him in there.

Post
Washington, D. C

Baltimorean Held On Rape Charge

MAR 27 1943

Baltimore, Aug. 9 (AP)—A 28-year-old Baltimorean was ordered held for grand jury action today on a charge of raping a married woman, 29, who asserted she was dragged into a room and assaulted. The woman told Magistrate [illegible] woman told Magistrate George P. Welzant she was visiting in a building on Washington st. yesterday when she was stopped by the man as she went along a passageway, and then dragged into a room and attacked.

MARYLAND

7114

37m-1943

Mississippi

7115

Tupelo White Man Held For Attack

Daily World

Atlanta, Georgia

TUPELO, Miss.—A 27-year-old white man, whose name is being withheld, was arrested and is being held in the County Jail here, as suspect in connection with the rape of a twelve year old white girl near Guntown, a small community about 10 miles from this city.

The alleged rape of the young girl is reported to have occurred last Wednesday when she was driving cattle home from the pasture.

Although Governor Johnson had been notified of the arrest Police and County officials said no charges had been filed pending a complete investigation.

JUN 10 1943

37m-1943

Missouri

7116

News
Birmingham, Ala

St. Louis Youth Tells Police How He Killed, Attacked Small Girl

MAY 4 1943

Body Of Child Is Found In Little-Used Highway Underpass By Watchman

ST. LOUIS (AP)—A few hours after the nude body of Mary Jane Tankersley, 3, slashed and bleeding, was found in a pedestrian underpass, James Franklin, 21, led police by streetcar to the spot.

Detective Capt. Martin Cliffe said Franklin confessed the attack slaying of his neighborhood companion and explained he took the girl over the same streetcar route to the little-used underground passageway beneath a high-speed automobile highway.

Capt. Cliffe said Franklin admitted tearing off the girl's clothing, choking her to hush her outcries, and stabbing her with his pocketknife.

He quoted Franklin as saying of the assault, "she was half dead then. I decided to finish the job."

Chief of Detectives Fred Egenreither said the barrel-chested youth is being held on charges of murder and attack, pending an inquest.

A park watchman on his way to work found the body. Torn clothing was piled at the girl's head, and one end of a piece of underwear knotted about her throat was stuffed into her mouth. There was a knife wound in the throat and two in the head.

Identification was made by the girl's father, William Tankersley, aircraft plant worker and former St. Louis Police Department clerk, who reported her missing shortly after she went out to play in the yard. Franklin's parents live in the same block.

Cliffe said Franklin spent some time in a state mental hospital a few years ago, after attacking a boy with a knife.

"Show us just what you did earlier this afternoon?" Cliffe told him. The youth halted the streetcar when it reached the underpass, led officers to the place the body had lain and detailed the slaying, police said.

Later when he later viewed the body, Franklin remarked at police headquarters as he signed a formal confession:

"Sure, I did it."

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Brutal Slaying Of Child Confessed By 21-Year-Old Man

MAY 4 1943

ST. LOUIS, May 3.—(AP)—Chief of Detectives Fred Egenreither said tonight James Franklin, 21, had confessed the murder of 3-year-old Mary Jane Tankersley a few hours after the girl's slashed and semi-nude body was found in a West Side pedestrian underpass.

MAY 4 1943

William Tankersley, an aircraft worker, identified his daughter's body at the city morgue. He told police she last was seen playing in the yard of his North St. Louis home, and that he notified officers when she was missing 20 minutes later.

MAY 4 1943

Carl Pierson, the 74-year-old park watchman, found the body in the darkened underpass more than four miles away.

The mystery of an anonymous telephone message which first notified police of Pierson's discovery was cleared up with his explanation that he asked a passing man to summon police.

Mary Jane was the youngest of four children ranging upwards to 14 years of age.

The youth, who lives in the same block as the Tankersley family, led police to the underground passageway and made an oral confession to stabbing and assaulting the girl, Egenreither said.

MAY 4 19

7/17

World-Telegram
New York, N. Y.

Brooklyn Soldier Admits Killing Girl, 16

By Associated Press.

SUTTON, Neb., Aug. 10.—State Sheriff Lloyd Mengel announced today that Sgt. Joseph MacAvoy, Brooklyn, has signed a confession admitting the slaying of 16-year-old Anna Milroy.

The nude and battered body of the girl was found a mile south of Sutton yesterday. An autopsy disclosed the girl had been raped.

Sheriff Mengel said Sergeant MacAvoy admitted having an argument with the girl. The soldier said she attempted to get out of the car, and both stepped into the road, Mr. Mengel related.

The soldier admitted striking the girl with his fist, knocking her to the ground, then hammering her head with a car crank, Mengel declared.

County Attorney S. W. [illegible] said he would not file charges against MacAvoy until he confers with authorities from the Harvard air base, where MacAvoy is stationed.

Mr. Mengel said that MacAvoy is married and has a wife, Evelyn, 1720 Third Ave., Brooklyn. MacAvoy was at liberty under $250 bond in connection with an alleged assault upon a woman at Hastings, Neb., several months before his arrest in the slaying, Mengel added.

Made Date for Ride

MacAvoy told how he met Anna Milroy in the evening and made a date to take her riding. Mr. Mengel said MacAvoy told him: "I knew her because I had met her once before." MacAvoy reportedly said: "I called her aside and asked her if I could see her up at the corner by Yost's garage.

"We got back into the car and drove out to this road. I grabbed her by the throat and threw her down. I grabbed the crank and started hollering. I hit her about four times on the head and killed her."

Mengel said MacAvoy admitted returning to the scene of the slaying Sunday night and seeing the girl's body. The soldier was arrested last night in a tavern here and the confession was signed early today.

Girl's Mother Faints at News

Mrs. Mary Meers, a weary, gray-haired mother, who has been ill for months, fainted

her head with a car crank, Mengel declared.

The girl, eldest of a family of eight children, had been missing since Saturday night.

Mengel said that MacAvoy is married. MacAvoy was at liberty under $250 bond in connection with an alleged assault upon a woman at Hastings, Neb., several months ago, before his arrest in the slaying, Mengel added.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Soldier Admits Slaying Young Girl In Nebraska

SUTTON, Neb., (AP) — State Sheriff Lloyd Mengel announced Tuesday that Sgt. Joseph Macavoy, 24, Brooklyn, N. Y., has signed a confession admitting the slaying of 16-year-old Anna Milroy, of Sutton.

The nude and battered body of the girl was found in the weeds near a gravel road a mile south of Sutton Monday. Sheriff John Harr said an autopsy disclosed the girl had been criminally attacked.

Sheriff Mengel said Macavoy admitted having an argument with the girl in his car. Macavoy said the girl attempted to get out of the car, and both stepped into the road, Mengel related.

Macavoy admitted striking the girl with his fist, knocking her to the ground, then hammering her head with a car crank, Mengel declared.

The girl, eldest of a family of eight children, had been missing since last Saturday night.

Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.

Soldier Admits Beating Girl To Death

AUG 1 1943

Was Out On Bond In Previous Assault

Sutton, Neb., Aug. 10 (AP)—State Sheriff Lloyd Mengel announced today that Sergt. Joseph MacAvoy, 24, Brooklyn, N. Y., had signed a confession admitting the slaying of 16-year-old Anna Milroy of Sutton.

The nude, battered body of the girl was found in weeds near a road a mile south of Sutton yesterday. Sheriff John Harr said an autopsy disclosed the girl had been raped.

Sheriff Mengel said MacAvoy admitted having an argument with the girl in his car. MacAvoy said the girl attempted to get out of the car, and both stepped into the road, Mengel related.

Admits Beating Girl.

MacAvoy admitted striking the girl with his fist, knocking her to the ground, then hammering

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

FEB 5 - 1943

SLAIN WOMAN'S BODY IS FOUND IN PATERSON

Two Suspects Questioned in Rape and Murder

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

PATERSON, N. J., Feb. 4—Police were holding two suspects tonight for questioning in the murder of Miss Elizabeth Traxler, about 35 years old, whose bruised and lacerated body was found early today near an old barn at 203 Van Houten Street. She died of strangulation and there were indications she had been raped, according to Dr. George Surgent, county physician, who performed an autopsy this evening.

The authorities said Miss Traxler had come to Paterson recently from Reedsville, Pa., and had been living at the home of Frank Peirano, a truck driver, of 351 Van Houten Street. Peirano, police established, had left Paterson yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock on a truck trip to Pennsylvania and is expected back tomorrow. Miss Traxler frequently accompanied him on his runs, but did not go yesterday because she had burnt her hand, police said.

The woman was reported to have left her home soon after Peirano left and to have appeared late last night at a tavern about three blocks from her home. She left the tavern around 1 o'clock this morning and her body was discovered at 10 A. M. nearly midway between the tavern and her home. Women residents of the neighborhood recalled having heard screams about 3 A. M.

FEB 5 - 1943

The woman's throat bore the marks of fingernails, her face was scratched and underclothing had been ripped from her body. Marks in the snow and the fact some of her clothing was twenty feet away indicated that she had been dragged to the barn either before or after her death, police concluded.

Police withheld the names of the men seized for questioning and said they would not disclose the reasons for holding them.

World-Telegram
New York, N. Y.

MAR 15 1943

Former Fighter Tried for Rape

Special to the World-Telegram.

PATERSON, March 15. — Edward Comisky, 22, known to fight fans as Pat and once hailed as a white hope contender for the crown worn by Joe Louis, went on trial here today charged with rape.

A jury of seven men and five women was selected to hear the case in Quarter Sessions Court before Common Pleas Judge Robert R. Davidson.

MAR 15 1943

Comisky, who once fought Max Baer in Jersey City, is also charged with atrocious assault on Raymond Gourley, 27, son of a Paterson policeman, is charged with Comisky on both counts, but will have a separate trial.

Troops Avert Passaic Anti-Negro Violence

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Harry Raymond
(Daily Worker Staff Correspondent)

PASSAIC, N. J., June 30. — U. S. troops with fixed bayonets narrowly averted what might have been a serious anti-Negro riot here last night after local police failed to halt racial disorders growing out of an attack on a 16-year-old Negro girl by a white soldier.

An atmosphere of race rioting was created outside John J. Hogan's Tavern, Main Ave. and Summer St., at 10 o'clock last night when Florence Blackwell, was insulted by a soldier.

JUL 1 1943

According to her mother, Mr. Rose Blackwell, who told the story to Public Safety Director Julius J. Cinamon, the white soldier, whom she described as a "Southerner," walked past with three other men in uniform and passed a derogatory remark to the girl.

Miss Blackwell, she said, resented the remark and the soldier commenced to choke the girl. The soldier also threatened to choke her, Mrs. Blackwell said.

This incident was followed by serious tension between a group of white persons and Negroes in the area, with the Negroes being threatened.

POLICE REFUSE ARREST

Police were called and arrived at the scene of trouble. They were commanded by Sergeant Noonan. Miss Blackwell pointed out the soldier she said attacked her. But Noonan did not arrest him when the bartender in the tavern disputed her indentification.

JUL 1 1943

Noonan then called police headquarters said "everything is straightened out" and left the scene.

Crowds continued to prowl the area, however, threatening Negroes. The police were called again. But order was not installed until a detachment of troops arrived from Paterson in jeeps.

Commissioner Cinamon was sharply critical of action, or rather lack of action, on the part of the police. He has ordered an investigation of the affair.

He expressed particular annoyance over the fact that he had to wait 20 minutes for police to return to the scene of the disturbance after a friend had called them back.

Lieut. Paul B. Speck, commander of the troops, was praised by Commissioner Cinamon for the way he handled the situation. "He did a lot to restore peace," the commissioner said.

JUL 1 1943

So far no arrests have been made. The troops have returned to Paterson. It is felt here there is a danger of more racial disturbances if the ring leaders of last night's affair, both civilian and service men are not sought out and prosecuted.

7119

The Troubled Past

OF 13-YEAR-OLD EDWIN CODARRE

Tomorrow (November 15) is the date set for the trial of Edwin Codarre. In a Poughkeepsie courtroom a representative of the people of the State of New York will attempt to send this 13-year-old boy to the electric chair for the slaying and rape of 10-year-old Elizabeth Voight of Fishkill, N. Y. . . . Edwin is believed to be the youngest person ever to be tried in New York on a first-degree murder charge. The editors of PM believe that lodging a first-degree charge against any child of 13 is barbaric. This article presents facts about Edwin Codarre's troubled past which make it apparent to us that his case is one peculiarly ill-suited to the atmosphere of a murder-trial courtroom.—Ed.

By Albert Deutsch

Last Summer Edwin Codarre was sent to Camp Kiwanis, near Fishkill, by the Big Brother Movement. The Big Brothers paid for two weeks of his stay at camp; Edwin remained two more weeks washing dishes for his keep. At camp, he struck up a friendship with the 12-year-old son of farmer Voight of Fishkill. Edwin visited the Voight boy at his home twice. On his third visit—Friday, the 13th of August—he found the Voight boy out, working on his father's farm. But 10-year-old Elizabeth, a bright 7th-grade girl who was alone at home, cutting paper dolls, offered to conduct Edwin to the farm.

On the way, the two children came to a lonely part of the road. Edwin has confessed that when the girl resisted his sexual advances he struck her repeatedly with a stone.

A post-mortem examination revealed the girl had a fractured larynx and evidence that she had been raped.

Was this the crime of a legally responsible person who knew "the nature and quality of the act he was doing"? That will be the main point at issue in the forthcoming trial.

"The very nature of the act reveals the perpetrator's abnormal mental state," says Dr. Ralph S. Banay, psychiatrist and specialist in criminology, who has examined Edwin since the boy's arrest. "I think that our own sanity should be brought into question when we doubt that such a manifest act of a deranged personality could have been committed by a child of normal sanity."

Dr. Banay, formerly chief psychiatrist at Sing Sing, will testify as an expert witness for the defense.

Austin M. McCormick, formerly New York City Commissioner of Correction, now executive director of the Osborne Association and an acknowledged leader among American penologists, attacks the first-degree charge against the 13-year-old Codarre boy from another angle. He says:

"It is a denial not only of long-established principles of criminal responsibility but also of common humanity when 20th-century New York, being unable under the statutes to try a 13-year-old boy for first-degree murder, finds legal justification for doing so by searching in the dim antiquity of the common law."

[The penal code of New York State specifically forbids the trial of children under 16 on felony charges. Ordinarily, child offenders are brought into juvenile court, in accordance with the modern penological principle that children must be treated separately from adults. Only under the centuries-old common law can children be charged with that degree of "criminal responsibility" that makes them liable to capital punishment. District Attorney John R. Schwartz of Dutchess County, has taken advantage of this rarely-invoked provision.]

What is Edwin Codarre's background? Is there anything in the brief span of his life that can help explain a crime belonging to the twisted-adult area, for which he may have to pay the penalty of a full-grown adult?

Edwin was born July 7, 1930, in San Francisco, to a 21-year-old soldier, Joseph Codarre, and his 16-year-old wife, Irene. Edwin's father left the Army a few months later and shipped as a merchant seaman. He has followed the sea ever since.

When Edwin was 18 months old, a second boy was born to the Codarres. By this time, things were going badly for the family. Joe Codarre was a good-natured, likeable young man, but he was also alcoholic and irresponsible. His heavy drinking cut deeply into his meager seaman's pay; he didn't send enough home to support the growing household.

Irene Codarre had to get a job. After a few months she found it impossible to work and also take care of two small children at home, so Edwin's brother, then nine months old, was "placed out" with a family that later legally adopted him. Edwin was boarded out in one foster home after another, remaining but a short time in each.

The young Codarre couple had been drifting apart; in 1934 they were divorced. Edwin was now a full-fledged "broken-

EDWIN CODARRE as he looked eight years ago, when he was five. Tomorrow he is scheduled to go on trial for his life.

home" child, subject to all the social and psychological insecurities inherent in the situation. Finding firm family root nowhere, he developed a restless spirit, frequently wandering from his dwelling place. He remained a chronic bed-wetter, usually a symptom of insecurity, until he was eleven years old. At one boarding home, whenever he wet the bed, the foster mother forced him to wring out the urine from the sheet and drink it. He would then be forced into a tub of ice water as further punishment. [There has long been a superstition that this "treatment" would cure a bed-wetter.]

Broken-home insecurity

The fact that his younger brother had been sent away preyed heavily on Edwin's mind, adding to his feeling of insecurity too much and that's why Irene was dissatisfied with me and that's why we broke up the home. During this time Eddie was boarded out here and there and everywhere and he had no sense of being settled. Just as he would be settled with children, there seemed to be another move. . . ."

In tracing Edwin's hereditary background, I do not mean to suggest that he might not have grown up to be normal in spite of his heredity. Many children of mentally sick forebears are themselves perfectly sound. It is true, however, that mental disorders occur more often in families with previous histories of insanity than in those without it. It is obvious, therefore, that when such irrational crimes as Edwin's occur, the question of psychiatric heredity is an important element in determining the offender's sanity.

There are some marked peculiarities in the appearance and behavior of the boy himself. People are struck by his body—an extremely large head set on a frail, underdeveloped torso. He has the face of an old man, with a deeply furrowed brow and eyes that express weariness and suffering. Edwin seems bold and indifferent to some visitors, but guards who have watched him since his imprisonment note that the child often breaks into fits of bitter weeping when he's alone.

Edwin rates normal in intelligence, with an IQ of 101. His disturbances are emotional rather than intellectual.

The boy manifests a most morbid fascination for the symbols of death. He constantly carried in his pocket a tiny figure of a human skull surmounted by a black stovepipe hat. A skilful sketcher, Edwin keeps drawing pictures of death's heads on paper, and often draws them on his body and arms. No sooner are these macabre pictures washed off his body than he draws them on again.

Insanity and crime

This reporter has no desire to prejudge the case of Edwin Codarre, whose trial before "a jury of his peers" begins this week. He cites the aforementioned facts in accordance with his deep conviction that we need to learn a lot more about the conditions that make criminals in order to understand the nature and prevention of crime. No good is done to the bereaved families of murder victims by arousing public passion against the perpetrator. More benefit is derived, in terms of potential victims and their families, if we try to delve into the conditions out of which such crimes spring.

It should be noted, in discussing this case, that under the present law insanity of itself is not accepted as an excuse from criminal responsibility.

The New York State Penal Law plainly declares:

"A person is not excused from criminal liability as an idiot, imbecile, lunatic or

State Rests in Codarre Case; Admits Failure to Warn Boy

PM
New York, N. Y.

NOV 22 1943

Aide Didn't Tell Child Until Later of the Meaning Of Confession

By SALLY WINGO RAD

The State rested its case yesterday in the murder trial of 13-year-old Edwin Codarre, accused of the "wilful and premeditated" murder of 10-year-old Elizabeth Voight, daughter of an East Fishkill farmer.

A two-and-a-half-hour conference in the judge's chambers between attorneys and psychiatrists of both sides held up the afternoon session as the trial entered its second week.

While the boy, in the brown corduroy knickers he has worn since the trial began, white shirt and blue sleeveless sweater, hid his face in his hands, District Attorney John R. Schwartz devoted much of the morning session to reading to the jury the confession Edwin had given to Assistant District Attorney Edward Russell on Aug. 14, the day the crime was discovered.

In the boy's words, Schwartz told the jury how the boy had strangled Elizabeth Voight on an open road near the town of East Fishkill, and raped her as she lay dying.

Asked whether he knew the meaning of the word *rape*, Edwin had described it in his confession as "an offense attacking a girl without willing."

When Russell asked the boy why he had strangled the little girl, he replied:

"I just was kind of scared, if she told her father and everything, and it would go to the camp and everything."

"Does your conscience bother you any?" Russell asked, as they left the scene of the crime.

"In a way," the boy replied.

Under cross-examination by Alexander C. Dow, defense attorney, Russell admitted that in obtaining the confession he had failed to warn the boy until after he had finished that it might be used against him.

Calling Russell's act a startling dereliction, Dow criticized the State for not throwing around the boy the protection usually given to children.

A Big Blow to Psychiatry; Experts Disagree on Insanity

By Albert Deutsch

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

NOV 23 1943

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., Nov. 23—Prospects that the first-degree murder trial of 13-year-old Edwin Codarre might be terminated today went glimmering after a lengthy conference between defense and prosecution psychiatrists failed to produce a common agreement on the vital question of the boy's mental status.

It is understood that the prosecution offered to accept a plea of guilty of murder in the second degree, provided that the defense would drop the insanity plea, and that this compromise was rejected by defense psychiatrists.

Thus, to the spectacle of the mighty Empire State forcing a child to trial for his life, will be added the unseemly scene of psychiatric experts taking opposite sides on what constitutes legal insanity. Once more a courtroom will witness two competent psychiatrists testify gravely that a defendant is legally insane, while two equally qualified psychiatrists will say with equal gravity that he is legally sane.

Nothing has been more instrumental in discrediting the profession of psychiatry in the public eye than this weeping performance, wherein psychiatric experts squarely contradict one another on a fundamental question of insanity at criminal trials. The classic instance of this psychiatric conflict occurred at the famed Loeb-Leopold trial in Chicago, where six of the Nation's most eminent psychiatrists were evenly divided on the defense and prosecution side.

The Lineup

The psychiatrists in the Codarre case line up as follows:

For the prosecution—Dr. Clarence O. Cheney, director of the Westchester Division of the New York Hospital, and Milton M. Grover, acting superintendent of the Harlem Valley State Hospital.

For the defense—Drs. Ralph A. Banay and Robert B. Laidlaw of the New York Neurological Institute. Dr. Banay formerly was chief psychiatrist at Sing Sing.

This puzzling conflict between psychiatrists at murder trials arises mainly from an old-age difference in the legal and medical concepts

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inform Edwin Codarre of his right to confession might be held against him until he contracted the statement from the boy.

District Attorney John Schwartz sharp and aggressive courtroom demeanor stands in sharp contrast to the gentle, but shrewd, questioning of Dow.

PM
New York, N. Y.

Codarre Boy Pleads Insanity

Society was blamed yesterday for the crime committed by 13-year-old Edwin Codarre on Aug. 13. Alexander C. Dow, attorney for the defense, charged in his opening statement in the Poughkeepsie Courthouse that the "authorities, in this case, have failed in their duty at every turn."

By "authorities" Dow referred to the social agencies which have taken an interest in the life of young Edwin Codarre from the time he was 11.

Speaking in the small courtroom, which bears the legend "Children's Court" on its door, and which is being used temporarily while naturalization cases are heard in the Supreme Court, Dow made his opening remarks after District Attorney John R. Schwartz, charging Edwin with "malice aforethought" in the murder of 10-year-old Elizabeth Voight, outlined the physical details of the crime. Schwartz made no reference to the electric chair, although the boy would face that fate should he be found guilty as charged.

"[illegible] premeditation and deliberation [illegible] design to kill, and barring [illegible] mental condition of the little boy at the time of the commission of the crime, I am practically in accord with Mr. Schwartz as to the sum total of the picture which he has presentd here," Dow said after Schwartz had finished his recital.

"Our defense," he continued, "is insanity."

Then in a 45-minute address which brought tears from the child defendant, [illegible] outlined the case history of Edwin Codarre, stressing the streak of insanity in the family which stems from the boy's maternal grandmother, now in a State institution.

Dow also pointed out that as early as 1941 Bellevue psychiatrists, after examination of the boy, recommended that he be committed to the Rockland State Hospital for the insane.

That he was not committed at that time," he said, "was the first mistake which removed the responsibility for this crime from the shoulders of this unfortunate little boy and placed it on the shoulders of society."

While the courtroom filled slowly with Poughkeepsie curiosity-seekers and Vassar social welfare students, Edwin kept his eyes focused on the floor or hidden behind his pudgy hand. He dabbed at his tears with a soiled handkerchief. He brightened somewhat during the noon recess when he showed reporters the overseas cap which he wears in his journey from the County Jail to the courthouse.

"My father brought it for me from Sicily," he said proudly, turning it inside out to show where he had printed his name.

"Just the way they do in the Army," he pointed out.

37m-1943

NEW YORK

7120

Body of Raped Girl, 12, Found; Police Seek Hotel Waiter

Courier, Louisville, Ky.

JAN 21 1943

New York, Jan. 20 (AP)—The body of a 12-year-old school girl, brutally ravaged and slain, was found today in a West Side flat a short distance from her home.

Police said the girl, Martha Punt, had been raped, her head bludgeoned by a machinist's hammer and her throat cut. Her battered body was found in the blood-soaked bed of a 45-year-old hotel waiter missing since yesterday when he failed to report for work some hours before the girl's disappearance was made known.

Alarm Sent Out.

Police sent out an alarm for the waiter, Ellis Ruiz Baez, known as Ellis Ruiz, a Puerto Rican.

Police, responding to a report from the man's roommate, Iraris Fandino, a fellow hotel worker, that a "dead boy" was in Ruiz' bed, went to the apartment and found the girl's body.

A younger sister of the slain girl related that she, Martha, and another playmate had visited the flat occupied by the two men and that on one occasion Ruiz had given each of them money.

Called "Sophisticated"

JAN 21 1943

The slaying took place near the girl's home, where she lived with her mother, Mrs. Elizabeth James, who is employed nights at a hospital, and a half-brother, a half-sister and an aunt.

JAN 21 1943

Martha was last seen early last night, and her family started a search when she failed to return home at 10 o'clock.

Matrons at a city recreation center which Martha attended said the girl was "well-behaved, but inclined to be sophisticated at times."

Police said the girl, Martha Punt, had been attacked, her head bludgeoned by a machinist's hammer and her throat cut. Her body was found in the bed of a 45-year-old hotel room waiter, missing since Tuesday when he failed to report for work some hours before the girl's disappearance was known.

Police sent out an alarm for the waiter, Ellis Ruiz Baez, known as Ellis Ruiz, a Puerto Rican.

Police, responding to a report from the man's roommate, Iraris Fandino, that a "dead boy" was in Ruiz' bed, went to the apartment and found the girl's body.

A younger sister of the slain girl related that she, Martha, and another playmate had visited the flat occupied by the two men and that on one occasion Ruiz had given each of them money.

JAN 21 1943

Martha was last seen early Tuesday night, and her family started a search when she failed to return home at 10 p.m. In the course of the search, a friend of Martha's suggested she might be with another playmate at the place where Ruiz and Fandino moved about three weeks ago. A fruitless search of the building was made, with no one answering the knock on Ruiz' door.

Police said Fandino told them he returned to the apartment at 10 p.m. Tuesday and saw someone in Ruiz' room, but believing it to be Ruiz, went into his own bedroom. He entered the other bedroom Wednesday morning, however, and saw feet protruding from the blanket. Fandino said he dressed and went out to notify police.

Martha was described by acquaintances as "a beautiful child" who raved attention. Matrons at a city ecreation cetner which she attended said the girl was "well-behaved, ut inclined to be sophisticated at imes."

WAITER SOUGHT IN GIRL'S DEATH

Body Of Missing Child Is Found In New York West Side Flat

JAN 21 1943

NEW YORK, Jan. 20—(AP)—The body of a 12-year-old schoolgirl, brutally ravaged and slain, was found Wednesday in a Westside flat a short distance from her home.

Victim on Way Home After Passover Dinner With Friend —Now in the Hospital

APR 21 1943

Miss Miriam Fitch, 19 years old, of - Parade Place, Brooklyn, bookkeeper by day and a student at night in the School of Business and Administration at City College, was a patient in Kings County Hospital yesterday following an attack by an unidentified man on Monday night.

APR 21 1943

Detectives of the Canarsie precinct were waiting for the girl to grow calmer before they could proceed with their investigation. She seemed bewildered and vague about some of the things that had happened. The police expect more explicit details when she gets over her fright.

Miss Fitch had Passover dinner on Monday night with Miss Rita Kasper, a friend, who lives at 302 Rockaway Parkway in East Flatbush. She left the Kasper house around 9 P. M., in the rain, and walked to Church Avenue and East Ninety-sixth Street to wait for a Church Avenue surface car.

Some one came from behind, the girl told the police, shut off her wind with one arm pressed against her throat, and put a hand over her mouth to stifle outcry. She was dragged fifty feet into East Ninety-sixth Street and into the driveway between 479-483 East Ninety-sixth Street. The girl told detectives she was kept there an hour and asserted that she was raped.

APR 21 1943

Her assailant talked to her in low tones, Miss Fitch said, according to the police, demanding her money. She said he took all she had, $1.50. She said he was about five feet eight inches in height, around 20 years old and that he wore a pork pie hat, a dark suit and blue sport shirt. In her plea for release, Miss Fitch said, she told the attacker she was a City College girl and he replied he had gone to the college and knew some of the faculty.

Miss Fitch was disheveled when she staggered to her feet, and the first door at which she knocked—it was one of the two houses sharing the driveway, she could not recall which—the woman who opened the door was frightened at her appearance and slammed the door. Miss Fitch said she then went across the street and was admitted by Miss Anna Karp, a civilian clerk at police headquarters, who lives at 484 East Ninety-sixth Street.

APR 21 1943

Miss Karp gave Miss Fitch hot tea, took off her wet garments and put her to bed. She called an ambulance and the Canarsie police. Miss Karp was taken to the hospital and the detectives, searching in the driveway, found Miss Fitch's bag. It contained all her possessions except the money she had given up.

New York Times
New York, N. Y

COLLEGE GIRL OF 19 MUGGED AND RAPED

Seized and Dragged 50 Feet Into a Driveway in East 96th Street, Brooklyn

APR 2 1943

ASSAILANT STEALS $1.50

New York Sun
New York, N. Y

Time Features "Negro" Muggings But Plays Down Mass Rape Of White Girl By 13 Whites

APR 10 1943

A horrible mass rape of a white girl, 17, by thirteen white youths in a Bronx movie theatre was 'played down' by the great New York Times, in its issue of April 2, but the conviction of two Negro youths for robbing a victim of $8.75 in an alleged "mugging" was featured in the same issue.

The Times carried both stories side by side. The rape story, a hideous crime carried in detail by other New York dailies, occupied only 3½ inches in The Times. Absolutely no details were given, not even the names of eight of the youths who have been arrested for the crime. Five are still being sought by police. A small one-line headline was over the story.

On the other hand, the mugging story had a bold-face italic two-line headline over it. It gave the names of the convicted men, said they were Negroes, told of testimony of witnesses, described the argument of the prosecuting attorney, and quoted the defense attorney to a length of six

APR 10 1943

In a letter to Edwin L. James, managing editor of The Times, who has denied that the paper is persecuting Negroes by the way it handles crime news, the NAACP pointed out that these two stories of April 2 prove that The Times is unfair and "has gone to fantastic lengths in an attempt to fasten a crime

APR 10 1943

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

No Indictment

MAY 22 1943

New York Times
New York, N. Y

Sentenced in Rape Case

Edward Di Napoli, 23 years old, of 650 East 183d Street, the Bronx, who pleaded guilty to second degree rape in the mass attack on a 17-year-old girl in the Bronx [illegible] House last March 11, was sentenced yesterday in Bronx County Court to an indeterminate term in the penitentiary. Di Napoli is the ninth defendant to get a prison sentence for the attack.

In Rape Case By Grand Jury

Lack Of Evidence Verdict Returned By New Yorkers

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Liberal civic organization throughout the community were embattled early this month over the failure of the Kings County Grand Jury to indict four whites who are charged with the rape of a 17-year-old Negro girl of this city. The grand jury's decision was based on "lack of evidence."

The victim of the alleged attack whose name is being withheld in connection with the wishes of her parents, charges the quartet raped her February 15.

Marion Weston, New York state civil liberties chairman of IBPO Elks of World made the charge that Assistant District Attorney Edward A. Heffernan of Brooklyn had urged the girl's relatives to "soft-pedal" the case.

PROSECUTOR CONTACTED

Weston stated that he had contacted the prosecutor "to inform him of the deep interest of our organization in seeing to it that the girl's attackers are brought to justice."

Heffernan is said to have assured Mr. Weston that the Brooklyn District Attorney's office is still interested in the case and hat local police are probing it further.

JAN 22 1943

The victim of the alleged attack whose name is being withheld at the request of her parents, charges the quartet raped her Feb. 15.

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New York State Civil Liberties

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NEW YORK—Liberal civic or

over the failure of the Kings Co

17-year-old Negro girl of this city. The grand

based on "lack

Rape Of N.Y. Girl By 4 Whitewashed?

Samuel Newberger, militant barrister who gained fame in the much publicized Oklahoma book-burning trials, has taken up legal cudgels in behalf of the girl.

MAY 22 1943

A committee of prominent citizens has been formed to assist Attorney Newberger. The committee includes the Rev. Thomas Harten; Father S. A. C. Daly;

Negro Elks Urge Rape Case Action

MAY 11 1943

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

By Ann Rivington

The Negro Elks, not only in Brooklyn, but throughout New York State, are throwing every energy into the campaign to reopen the case against four white hoodlums identified by a 17-year-old Negro girl as having committed a mass rape upon her on Feb. 17, the Daily Worker learned yesterday.

Leaders of the Elks expressed the organization's anger that the metropolitan press has been silent on the whole case and that the Kings County grand jury because of alleged "lack of evidence," failed to indict the girl's attackers.

Thomas Cowan, civil liberties chairman of the Brooklyn Elks, announced that a borough-wide citizens' committee has been formed, to see that the case is reopened and the rapists are brought to justice.

Samuel Newberger, attorney who fought the Oklahoma cases, he stated, is acting in behalf of the girl's uncle, Joseph Poline, and of the committee, to see that justice is done.

MAY 11 1943

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Prominent citizens who have already signified their eagerness to serve on this committee, he continued, include the Rev. Thomas Harten; Father S. A. C. Dalrymple; the Rev. Wellington D. Foster; Samuel L. Newberger; Clarence Johnson, chairman of the Negro Labor Victory Committee; Councilman Peter V. Cacchione; Fred Turner, civil liberties committee of the Brooklyn Elks and Benjamin Butler.

"Our entire energies and resources will be devoted to bringing those hoodlums to justice," Mr. Cowan said. "The metropolitan press," he added, 'has our serious criticism for quashing the entire issue."

The citizens' committee, Mr. Cowan announced, is preparing to hold a monster protest meeting on the case within the next ten days in the Alexander Hamilton High School, when the Rev. Harten, Samuel Newberger and Councilman Cacchione will be among the speakers.

MAY 11 1943

SHOCKED BY ACTION

Moran Weston, chairman of New York State Civil Liberties Department of the Elks, told the Daily Worker yesterday that the Elks were shocked to learn of the dropping of this case against four men who were indicted for the brutal attack on a young girl seventeen years of age. In view of the girl's positive identification of the four men, it is difficult to understand why the prosecution has been terminated.

"We feel," he continued, "that the Daily Worker has rendered a public service in bringing this matter to the attention of the people of New Yok, and for exposing the alleged attempt on the part of the District Attorney in charge to soft pedal action in the case."

MAY 11 1943

Mr. Weston explained that he had called Assistant District Attorney Edward A. Heffernan, "to inform him of the deep interest of our organization in seeing to it that the girl's attackers are brought to justice."

MAY 11 1943

Heffernan formerly urged the girl's kin to keep the case quiet, this reporter was informed by her uncle Joseph Poline. However, Mr. Weston stated that Heffernan's answer yesterday was "that his office is still interested in the case and that the local oplice are investigating further."

MAY 11 1943

"Our legal staff," Mr. Weston continued, "has been instructed to investigate the facts, and to recommend such steps as will bring about justice. They will be happy to cooperate in every way with Mr. Newberger.

MAY 11 1943

White Gang Rapes, Abuse Negro Girl. Jury Drops Charges

MAY 22 1943

By ROTH FRANCIS

BROOKLYN.—(ANP)— A seventeen-year-old Negro girl was raped and otherwise abused by a white gang of Brownsville hoodlums. Despite the fact that the girl identified four of her attackers, the grand jury dropped the charges on the grounds of "insufficient evidence" and the office of the District Attorney kept the case out of the daily press by a "hush up" attitude.

Harlem Woman Beaten, Attacked By 3 Men in 42nd Street Hotel

People's Voice
New York, N. Y.

MAY 15 1943

Special

Vice and prostitution, boldly and brazenly engaged in downtown with little or no molestation from the police, were revealed exclusively last week as the result of a brief, but convincing, investigation instituted by The People's Voice, following the department's own "smear" campaign in the closing of the Savoy Ballroom. This week as we go to press, New York City's "vigilant" protectors of morals are seemingly waiting for three white men, who criminally assaulted a maid in a West Forty-second street hotel in broad daylight, to surrender and confess the crime. The woman was beaten so severely that she had to be taken to the hospital, where three stitches were necessary to close an ugly gash over her right eye.

MAY 15 1943

In the course of her duties as ninth floor maid at the Holland Hotel, 351 W 42d st, Mrs. Lottie Thomas, age 37, the victim of the attack, went into connecting rooms numbers 911-912, occupied by the three men, last Wednesday. Two of the men made improper advances to her, but she was successful in talking them out of it by calling attention to the fact that she was an employee and that she had to do her work.

MAY 15 1943

Later that afternoon when she went to take clean linen to the room, and had scarcely got inside the door, one of the men immediately suggested that she kiss him and at this point moved menacingly toward her, having first had the forethought to place himself between Mrs. Thomas and the door so that there would be no means of escape.

MAY 15 1943

Frantic with fear she then attempted to elude the man by running through the connecting door into the other room. This maneuver tripled her difficulties for the two other men in that room joined in the uneven attack. One of the latter grabbed her and she tried to fight him off, but finding herself hopelessly ensnared, she let out a desperate scream. That is all she remembered until she regained consciousness in Roosevelt Hospital.

MAY 15 1943

It is not known how long the defenseless woman lay unconscious and bleeding in the hotel room before she was taken to the hospital. Her clothes had been torn from her body.

MAY 15 1943

When Mrs. Thomas was interviewed at her home (address withheld for precautionary reasons, although the police may have it if they so desire) Monday afternoon she was still in a state of extreme nervousness and has resigned her job at the hotel.

MAY 15 1943

Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negro Pastor Asks Action On Rape Case

MAY 10 1943

By Ann Rivington

Assistant District Attorney Edward A. Heffernan of Kings County was scored yesterday by the Rev. George Ford, Negro pastor of the Christ Church Mission, 88 Watkins St., Brooklyn, for not having carried through the prosecution of four white men who raped a 17-year-old Negro girl.

No fair-minded District Attorney would dismiss such a case he told the Daily Worker.

The girl, a resident of Brownsville, whose name is being withheld by the Daily Worker in deference to her parents' wishes, was criminally attacked on Feb. 18 by a gang of eight or more hoodlums known to police as the "Abe Reles Juniors."

MAY 10 1943

The girl positively identified four of her attackers to police the same night. The case, however, was not reported in the daily press, and Assistant District Attorney Heffernan urged the girl's kin to keep things quiet. The case was dropped by the grand jury on March 30 for alleged "lack of evidence."

An intelligent person would almost be tempted to conclude," the Rev. Ford told the Daily Worker, "that a fair-minded District Attorney would not dismiss such a case while there was a semblance of doubt in his mind that there might be grounds for punishing these young men. And the grounds were present. A young lady of school age had been trespassed against in a criminal way. It is a strange thing for a case of this sort to be dropped for lack of evidence. The District Attorney might easily have gotten evidence if he had only resorted to local police records. Surely we have decent police here, who would cooperate in cleaning up crime in our community.

MAY 10 1943

HEINOUS CRIME

This crime, the Rev. Ford pointed out, "was perpetrated against a member of a minority people who are carrying an unwarranted stain for the most heinous type of crime in our day—mugging." So-called "mugging" cases against Negroes, he said, "whether real or unreal, are always well prosecuted. The due process of law is always resorted to very quickly."

MAY 10 1943

"It is to the interest of white parents as well as Negro parents," the Rev. Ford continued, "to get rid of such a gang at once. It's high time to show these misinformed young men the light, and teach them their duty to the community. A gang is no respector of persons. We're fighting a question of community importance, of equal interest to white parents and Negro parents. A clean community affords a decent habitation for all citizens regardless of race, creed or color."

37m-1943
The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

New York

7121

Negro 'Won't Hush Up' on Rape Case

MAY 14 1943

By Ann Rivington

The voice of Joseph Poline, Negro war worker, demanding justice for his 17-year-old niece who was brutally raped by a gang of white hoodlums, is rousing burning indignation in Brooklyn.

Mr. Poline told of the grievous crime, the feeble prosecution by the District Attorney and the dropping of the case by the Grand Jury at a mass meeting called Monday night by the Rev. Thomas Harten in the Central Congregational Church.

He has also appealed for support—and gotten it—from the Brownsville Anti-Poll Tax Committee, which met at the Hebrew Education Society, Sutter Ave and Hopkinson St.

Poline described at the mass meeting how Assistant District Attorney Edward A. Heffernan had called him to his office for questioning, and "urged me to hush it up to keep it quiet."

The audience roared applause as he added in a firm voice, "I told him there was no quiet in me."

"And there was only one paper, the Daily Worker," the Rev. Harten interjected, "that carried the facts. All the others pigeonholed it."

Poline told how one of the four, whom his niece identified as her attackers was released from bail because "The defense attorney, Leon Fishbein, said he was a good boy with a good job, whose family he'd known for years, and it just couldn't happen," and how Fishbein, in court, was allowed to "question the girl in street language."

"And this wasn't Georgia," said the Rev. Harten. "This happened right here in Brooklyn."

For the sake of the war effort, Poline urged, "the people must get together on this thing."

Councilman Peter V. Cacchione told the crowd, "This case can't rest. We've got to make Mr. Heffernan think along different lines." The question of bringing pressure on the District Attorney will be taken up at a mass meeting next week, he announced.

In his appeal to the Brownsville Anti-Pall Tax Committee, Poline stated, "I feel like I was in the heart of Alabama. The whole prosecution was a farce."

The committee passed a resolution calling for reopening of the case, and approving the organization of the Citizens's Committee headed by Rev. Harten which is planning next week's mass meeting. The case will also be presented at an anti-Poll Tax meeting in Public School 66, on May 29, it was decided.

Milton Goell, the chairman, who is also head of the Brownsville Neighborhood Council, urged, "When we fight anti-Negro prejudice, we're helping to smash Hitler. Although the newspapers may not know it, their endeavor to split the people of New York City along color lines is just what the Nazis would love. To win this war, we need 135,000,000 Americans, including 13,000,000 Negroes. We have to be together."

"The louder we speak in Brownsville on this case," the Rev. Boise Dent, prominent Negro clergyman pointed out, "the better we'll be able to line up the Negro people behind the war."

"If we're going to have a real democracy," he added, "it's got to be for, of and by the people, irrespective of race, color or creed."

Jack Gilbert, Brownsville's Civilian Defense chairman, urged, "This is a community problem — a war problem, and we've got to appreciate it as such. Handling of this case is a necessity of the moment for our community. There are 10,000 Negroes in this community.

Murder Trial of Codarre, Aged 13, Turns Clock Back to Last Century

Edwin Codarre, aged 13, goes on trial for his life tomorrow in Poughkeepsie, charged with the attempted rape and murder of a 10-year old girl. He is the youngest person to be brought to trial in New York State on a first-degree murder charge within the memory of living penologists.

There is something deeply disturbing about this trial, aside from the brutal nature of the crime. Down the centuries, civilized society has developed a principle of criminal law which distinguishes between the child and the adult offender. In accordance with that principle, society no longer wreaks vengeance upon child and adult indiscriminately and vindictively. It no longer demands that "the punishment fit the crime," regardless of the age or background of the criminal.

During the past century there has been a steady trend toward distinguishing between child and adult offenders. Our present legal system, by and large, provides for separate places of trial, detention and institutional treatment for juvenile delinquents. Our network of juvenile courts is an outstanding symbol of this trend.

All children charged with offenses other than "capital crimes" in New York, must be tried in these juvenile courts. No child under 16 can be tried for a felony. But a provision in the law permits children to be tried for first-degree murder under the common law. The District Attorney of Dutchess County has elected to use this loophole to bring 13-year-old Edwin Codarre under the shadow of the electric chair.

It is to the shame of "the people of the State of New York" that this retrogressive step will be taken in their name. Last Spring, when a 14-year-old boy was similarly tried for first-degree murder in West Virginia, the editors of PM were so shocked that they sent a reporter down to cover a spectacle that properly belonged to another century. The jury of "benighted hill-billies" proved wise and humane enough to send the boy, a mental case, to a mental hospital instead of to the execution chamber.

And now, in the very heart of this supposedly enlightened area, "the people of the State of New York" are officially committed to

Girl, 10, Criminally Attacked And Killed By 15-Year-Old Youth

News

Birmingham, Ala.

FISHKILL, N. Y. (AP) —A 15-year-old boy camper from New York City sat dejectedly Saturday night under questioning by state police who said he admitted criminally attacking and slaying a 10-year-old girl friend and tossing her body into a cornfield.

State Police Capt. Walter R. Reilly, of Hawthorne Barracks, said no charge had yet been placed against the youth, apprehended at a Summer camp about a mile and a half from the scene of the crime. The battered body of the victim, pretty Elizabeth Voisat, daughter of an East Fishkill farmer, was found by State Police [illegible] Corsilia in a field bordering the Eastern State Parkway. Parents of the child, who had left home Friday afternoon, notified state police when she had failed to return Saturday morning.

The troopers obtaining the description of a boy with whom Elizabeth was reported to have been seen strolling Friday, went to the camp and took the suspect into custody.

Corsilia said the youth, at first adamant in denying he had been with the girl, subsequently told police of bashing her head with a rock and criminally attacking her. Admitting that he then dragged the body over [illegible] into the cornfield, Corsilia asserted, the youth readily led police to the scene.

He told them, the sergeant added, he had been at the camp a month and had been acquainted with the girl a couple of weeks.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

$12,000 BAIL IN RAPE CASE

Prisoner Held for Grand Jury in Attack on Army Man's Wife

Harold Rouda, 26 years old, of 1054 Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn, was arraigned yesterday before Magistrate Charles E. Ramsgate in Brooklyn Felony Court on charges of rape, burglary, possession of burglar tools and violation of the Sullivan Law. He was held in $12,000 bail to await action of the grand jury.

Prior to his arraignment, he made an appearance in the police line-up at Manhattan headquarters. He is accused of attacking [illegible] 23-year-old wife of an Army corporal after breaking into her apartment in Brooklyn early Thursday morning.

Rouda also was taken to Jewish Hospital yesterday to be seen by Miss Alice Clarfield, but she failed to identify him as her assailant on July 3 at 273 Lincoln Place, Brooklyn. At that time her roommate, Betty Pitleson, was killed. Two witnesses in the murder of Mrs. Rehamah Baranow at 260 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn, on Feb. 9 also were unable to identify Rouda.

Victim Identifies Four Members of Gang; D.A. Advises Kin to 'Keep Things Quiet'

MAY 6 1943

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

By Ann Rivington

MAY 6 1943

Why has the press kept silent and why has the Grand Jury refused to indict a gang of white Brooklyn hoodlums for a mass rape against a 17-year-old Negro girl after the rapers were identified and arrested for the heinous crime?

This gang, well known to local police as the "Abe Reles Juniors," robbed and assaulted the girl on Feb. 19, 1943. [The late Abe Reles, who committed suicide while under arrest, was a leader of the notorious Murder, Inc., mob of Brooklyn.]

The same night, the girl positively identified four of her attackers to police.

They were arrested, held for $1,500 bail apiece, on charges of rape, sodomy and robbery, referred by Felony Court, 120 Schermerhorn St., Brooklyn, to the Grand Jury for indictment.

The Grand Jury heard the case on March 30—and dropped it because of "insufficient evidence"!

New York City newspapers which have plastered their front pages again and again, during the period since this revolting crime was committed, with fake "mugging" stories, libels against the Negro people, have been consistently silent about this horrible sex crime, in which the victim was a young Negro girl, and her assailants were white.

MAY 6 1943

THE STORY

Here is the story, as it was told to the Daily Worker by the girl's uncle, Joseph Poline.

We will call the girl Alice. Her real name and her address are being withheld by this paper out of deference to her parents' wishes, to protect her from sensational publicity. She lives somewhere in Brownsville.

MAY 6 1943

Alice, then, at 6:30 on the evening of Feb. 19—the sky was clear and it was quite light—was on her way home from her job, at the Fink Dental Laboratory, 72 Willoughby St., in the Bedford-Stuyvesant area of Brooklyn. Since the errand boy was off that day, her employer had asked her to deliver a set of artificial teeth to a dentist in a second-floor office at the corner of Pitkin Ave. and Sackman St.

She found the dentist's office closed, and stopped at the candy store downstairs to leave the teeth for him.

MAY 6 1943

A gang of a dozen or more young toughs, lounging in front of the store, began passing "fresh" remarks.

Alice is a tiny wisp of a girl, slender, shy, lovely to look at. She's a "scared little thing," her uncle told the Daily Worker.

As Alice started for the corner to catch her bus home, two of the loungers came along, one on each side of her. "They grabbed her arms and steered her up Watkins St. She couldn't pull away and was too scared and bewildered to yell," said Mr. Poline.

MAY 6 1943

DRAGGED INTO DOORWAY

The girl was shoved and dragged into a doorway at 92 Watkins St. Here she screamed and started to struggle, but her assailants clapped their hands over her mouth and dragged her up two flights of stairs and into a vacant flat. Here two others joined them. The four seized her purse and started to attack her in the most brutal manner. She screamed and kicked on the floor, in vain—the flat below was also vacant.

MAY 6 1943

At least four other members of the gang arrived later, Alice told police and testified in court. The eight took turns raping her till half past one in the morning. Then they sauntered out and left her there, with the door ajar.

"She gathered up her little things and got down to the street," her uncle said. "Her mother always told her to go right to the police if anything happened, so she found her way to the Liberty Ave. Station."

Detective Joseph Malone and another detective from the station house were sent with her, in a police car, to seek the attackers.

MAY 6 1943

THREE FOUND

Finally three men whom the girl identified as her attackers were found, drinking beer in Sol Gewanter's Bar and Grill at Pitkin Ave. and Sackman St., diagonally across the street from the dentist's office where she had brought the teeth. The Daily Worker has the names of these defendants.

Later, a fourth, a seventeen-year-old boy, was also found, positively identified by Alice, and booked at Snyder Ave. Adolescents Court.

It was still light when she was first dragged into the apartment at 92 Watkins St., and all night the gang were striking matches to light cigarettes, her uncle explained, so there was no doubt about the identification. Later he added, when detectives broke into the apartment they found the floor strewn with cigarette butts and match stubs, with blood-stained underwear and her empty purse, from which they had taken $13, lying in a corner.

The 17 - year - old youth was brought before Adolescents Court on Feb. 24, and again on March 5 when he was held for the Grand Jury.

MAY 6 1943

EXCLUDED FROM COURT ROOM

The other three were first brought before Felony Court on Feb. 26. Case was postponed to March 5, when at the request of young gangsters' attorney, Leon Fishbein—Alice's mother, her uncle, and "all representatives of organizations and societies" were excluded from the court room.

Details of the attack were so lurid that Magistrate Sweeney ordered a private hearing for March 12. Again at Fishbein's request, mother, uncle and all other friends were excluded, except for Mrs. Virginia Winfield, mother of the girl's pastor, Rev. George Thomas.

At this hearing, Mrs. Winfield told the Daily Worker, "There were a lot of things they didn't let her tell in court. That lawyer Fishbein kept putting the nastiest questions to her. And the Assistant District Attorney, Clarence Wilson, only spoke a few times."

The youths testified that they had been elsewhere — had never seen Alice before. Attorney Fishbein moved to have the case settled in Magistrate's Court.

MAY 6 1943

GRAND JURY

The case, however, was referred by Judge Sweeney to the Grand Jury. Alice testified at the Grand Jury hearing on March 30.

More than a week later, Mr. Poline said he was notified by the disappointed Detective Malone that the Grand Jury had dropped the case for "insufficient evidence."

"Malone felt pretty bad," Mr. Poline commented. He didn't know why the case was dropped. He told me he'd been trying to get evidence to convict that gang for a couple of years, that they were well-known as toughs to the police of the neighborhood."

MAY 6 1943

"And another funny thing," he went on. "While the hearings were going on, I was called to the District Attorney's office with my niece. Edward A. Heffernan, Assistant District Attorney, questioned us separately. He asked me about an avalanche of letters and telegrams he'd been getting from prominent people in town, calling for justice for the Negro people in this case. He urged me to keep things kind of quiet. I told him I fought four years for democracy in the last war, and I'd like to have some of it now."

MAY 6 1943

Dropping of the case against his niece's attackers is "an insult to the Negro people," Mr. Poline said, adding, "it only helps the fascists in this war, and we've got some of these to deal with right here in America."

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

White Gang Freed After Rape of Girl

MAY 20 1943

BROOKLYN, N. Y., May 20—A seventeen-year-old Negro girl was raped and otherwise abused by a white gang of Brownsville hoodlums. Despite the fact that the girl identified four of her attackers, the grand jury dropped the charge on the grounds of "insufficient evidence" and the office of the district attorney kept the case out of the daily press by employing a "hush up" attitude.

The thinking people of the community are aroused over the issue and will hold a public meeting to devise ways and means to see that justice is done on behalf of the girl. Invited to testify are Joseph Poline, uncle of the girl, the Rev. George Ford, pastor of Christ Mission church and Rex Glauber.

Herbert Harris, executive secretary of the Communist Party of Brownsville, said: "We are going to see that this case is reopened and fight it to the limit. The Negro and white people of Brownsville will stand united on this case, just as they were united in the defense of Sherry Franklin, young Negro girl of our neighborhood who was recently smeared as a murder in the public press and indicted and jailed by police, but later exonerated as a result of public pressure."

MAY 20 1943

Soldier Stabs Sailor, Rapes Girl in Park

World-Telegram New York, N. Y.

JUN 1 1943

A soldier was accused today of raping a sailor's 17-year-old girl friend in Madison Sq. Park under threat of cutting her throat with his bayonet.

Detectives said the attacker, Pvt. Edward Green, 24, of Company L, 372nd Infantry, left his post at 2 a. m. yesterday in front of 23rd St. and Lexington Ave., and went to Madison Sq. Park where the couple was sitting on a bench.

He allegedly stabbed the sailor in the shoulder with a pocketknife and then, removing his bayonet and brandishing it in front of the frightened couple, warned the man:

"I don't want you to move. I'll bring her back, but if you move I'll cut her throat with this."

While the sailor waited helplessly, he took the girl into a secluded part of the park, detectives said, returning with her 20 minutes later. Just then an M. P. approached, and the soldier fled into Fifth Ave. Detectives said both the sailor and the victim identified Green. He is charged with rape and assault.

According to detectives, Green

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

Two Held in Burglary

Police Bullet Kills Youth in Park Fight

World-Telegram New York, N. Y.

37m-1943

North Carolina

7122

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Blackened Face No Good In Carolina Assault Attempt

MADISON, N. C.—(A N P)—Efforts to once again try out an old trick and make it work failed last week when Ollie T. Lewellyn, 45, a white tenant farmer of Huntsville township, was lodged in Rockingham county jail after he had blackened his face and assaulted Miss Hessie Mabe, 33, with a deadly weapon with intent to commit rape.

Although white citizens from nearby communities combined their energies in search of the alleged Negro, keen observation on the part of Sheriff B. A. Young unearthed a pair of sun glasses with a grease fingerprint on them. Such evidence clearly indicated that Miss Mabe's accoster was not a Negro. The assistance of bloodhound dogs completed the trail which led to Lewellyn's home.

The man confessed to being the one that held up the young woman. He denied however, any intention of committing rape. Lewellyn's hearing will be held next week.

SEP 18 1943

BLACKENS FACE TO ATTEMPT MISDEED

Courier Pittsburgh Pa

SEP 18 1943

MADISON, N. C., Sept. 16 — (ANP)—Efforts to once again try out an old trick and make it work failed last week when Ollie T. Lewellyn, 45, white tenant farmer of Huntsville township, was lodged in Rockingham county jail after he had blackened his face and assaulted Miss Hessie Mabe, 33, with a deadly weapon with intent to commit criminal assault.

The man confessed to holding up the young woman but denied any intention of committing criminal assault. Lewellyn's hearing will be held next week.

SEP 18 1943

Amsterdam Star-News
New York, N. Y.

White Blackens Face But Nabbed On Rape Charge

MADISON, N. C.—(ANP)—Ollie T. Lewellyn, 45, a white tenant farmer of Huntsville township, was lodged in Rockingham county jail this week after he had blackened his face and assaulted Miss Hessie Mabe, 33, with a deadly weapon with intent to commit rape.

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SEP 18 1943

Sheriff Nabs Phony 'Negro'

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

MADISON, N. C., (ANP)—Efforts to once again try out an old trick and make it work failed last week when Ollie T. Lewellyn, 45, a white tenant farmer of Huntsville township, was lodged in Rockingham county jail after he had blackened his face and assaulted Miss Hessie Mabe, 33, with a deadly weapon with intent to commit rape.

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SEP 18 1943

37m-1943

NORTH CAROLINA

7123

Defender
Chicago, Ill.

White Soldier Held In Rape Of Negro Girl

MANTEO, N. C. (ANP) — Upon complaint of a housemaid that he criminally attacked her last week, Pvt. Lester Holland, attached to the 111th infantry stationed near here, was arrested by police and bound over to superior court in $1,000 bond by Justice of the Peace L. F. Davis.

Holland was formally charged with "assault upon a female with intent to commit rape."

Warrant for the soldier was sworn out by E. S. Wise, deputy sheriff, who with Chief of Police Dan Canady and Special Officer Harry Smith made the arrest. They said the unnamed woman identified Holland as the man who ambushed her near Winbourn cottage last Thursday night where she is employed.

37m-1943

World-Telegram
York, N. Y.

JAN 30 1943

Die in Chair

...CINNATI, Jan. 30.—Anthony ...57, paint sprayer, was found ... today by three Common ... judges of first degree murder ... Christmas Eve rape-slaying ...eim Sellers, 10. He will be ...ced to die in the electric ... Treat, after the verdict ...ed, "I'm happier than if I ...iven a life sentence."

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

AD OF COLLEGE ...ICTED; INTENT RAPE CHARGED

...reign Relief Aid Seized ...n Complaint of Girl, 7.

JAN 3 - 1943

...do, O., Feb. 2 [Special].—Wal... ...atrick, 29 year old college ...nt and international leader in ...f for student relief ... indicted here today on charges ...ssault with intent to rape and ... assault. ... Kilpatrick took a 7 year old girl to ... hotel room here Jan. 11 and dis... ...d her on a pretense of taking ...graph, according to the true ... The prosecutor's office said his ...ord contained no film.

...outhful educator last fall ...ed a two year leave of absence ... Cedarville college, Cedarville, ...which he has headed since 1940, ...rding to Ira D. Vayhinger, acting ...dent during his absence.

Does Relief Work.

...hinger was given the leave to ... all his time to work for the ... Christian Student Relief fund, ...rganization maintaining offices in ... York and having its headquar... in Geneva, Switzerland. The or... ...ation does educational work in ...en refugee and war prisoner ...

...hinger said Kilpatrick had ex... to go to Geneva this winter, ...s had been prevented by the

OHIO

German occupation of France. He said he had no idea what Kilpatrick was doing in Toledo.

"He enjoyed the confidence of religious leaders here and abroad," Vayhinger said, adding that his influence had won wide respect.

Denies Molesting Girl.

The prosecutor's office said Kilpatrick admitted taking the girl to his hotel room after encountering her playing in the snow in the courthouse park, but denied molesting her. Confronted with the girl's story that he photographed her in the nude getting into and out of bed, he said, "If she says so, it must be so," altho he admitted he had no film.

Officials said Kilpatrick gave an assumed name when taken into custody on the girl's complaint. His real name was found on papers in his room, but police at first doubted he was the person named in these papers. Vayhinger was summoned here and identified him.

Free on $2,500 Bond.

Kilpatrick has been freed on $2,500 bond and placed in a private sanitarium.

He is an ordained Presbyterian minister and a contributor to religious journals. He is a graduate of Cedarville college and took his theological studies at Western Theological seminary.

He received a master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 1938 and studied for two years at Westminster college, Cambridge, England.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

EDUCATOR GIVEN TERM ON CHARGE INVOLVING GIRL, 7

Minister, 29, Pleads Guilty to Assault Count.

FEB 4 - 1943

Toledo, O., Feb. 3 (AP).—Walter Kilpatrick, 29 years old, president of Cedarville college, was sentenced to an indeterminate term in the Ohio penitentiary today after pleading guilty a charge of felonious assault involving a 7 year old girl.

Judge Lee N. Murlin accepted the plea after Thomas H. O'Connor, prosecuting attorney, agreed to nolle an indictment of assault with intent to rape. The incident occurred in a hotel room Jan. 11, after Kilpatrick met the girl in a park.

He may serve up to 10 years on the charge.

J. S. Crutchfield, director of Western Theological seminary, Pittsburgh, Pa., appeared for Kilpatrick and said the man had been considered for president of the seminary.

Enter Probation Plea.

Lehr Fess, attorney for the defendant, asked probation, claiming Kilpatrick was a victim of a nervous disorder and could be restored to society as "cured" after treatment in a sanitarium. Joe Rhinefort, assistant prosecutor, opposed probation, saying this case was one of the "most degrading" in Toledo's history.

Kilpatrick, who became the nation's youngest college president upon his 1940 appointment to the Cedarville, O., post, recently was granted a leave of absence to help promote a European student relief fund and was on a lecture tour at the time of the alleged assault.

Kilpatrick was ordained a Presbyterian minister at Dayton, O., after obtaining his bachelor of divinity degree at Western seminary in 1937.

Studies in Europe.

He later studied in England and Switzerland. In England for a time he helped evacuate children from London.

[Associated Press Wirephoto.]

Walter S. Kilpatrick, 29 year old president of Cedarville college at Cedarville, O., who was sentenced to Ohio penitentiary for an indeterminate term after he pleaded guilty to a charge involving a 7 year old girl.

...as "cured" after treatment in a sanitarium. Joe Rhinefort, assistant prosecutor, opposed probation, saying this case was one of the "most degrading" in Toledo's history.

Kilpatrick, who became the nation's youngest college president upon his 1940 appointment to the Cedarville, O., post, recently was granted a leave of absence to help promote a European student relief fund and was on a lecture tour at the time of the alleged assault.

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He later studied in England and Switzerland. In England for a time he helped evacuate children from London.

7124

...Kilpatrick had been minister of a Pittsburgh mission and assistant pastor of the Shady Avenue Presbyterian church there.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

College Head Sent to Prison For Attack on 7-Year-Old Girl

FEB 4 1943

Sentencing Follows Plea of Guilty to Reduced Charge

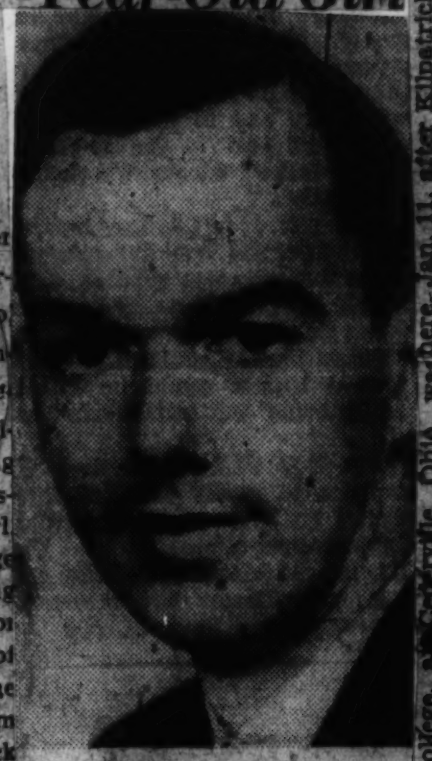
Toledo, Ohio, Feb. 3 (AP).—Walter Kilpatrick, 29, president of Cedarville College at Cedarville, Ohio, and an ordained Presbyterian minister, was sentenced to an indeterminate term in the Ohio Penitentiary today after pleading guilty to a charge of felonious assault involving a 7½-year-old girl.

The plea was accepted by Judge Lee N. Murlin after Prosecuting Attorney Thomas H. O'Connor agreed to nolle an indictment of assault with intent to rape. The attack occurred in a hotel room here, January 11, after Kilpatrick had met the girl in a park.

J. S. Crutchfield, a director of Western Theological Seminary at Pittsburgh, who appeared on behalf of Kilpatrick, told the court he had known the man eight years and that Kilpatrick had been considered for president of the seminary. FEB 4 1943

Attorney Lehr Fess, representing the defendant, asked probation for Kilpatrick, claiming he was a victim of a nervous disorder and could be restored to society as "cured" after treatment in a sanitarium. The probation was opposed by Joe Rhinefort, assistant prosecutor, who said this case was one of the "most degrading" in the history of Toledo. He asserted the prisoner was a dangerous person and should not be permitted to be at large. FEB 4 1943

Kilpatrick, who became the youngest college president in the Nation upon his appointment to the



Associated Press WIREPHOTO

WALTER S. KILPATRICK.

Cedarville post in 1940, recently was granted a leave of absence to aid in promotion of a European student relief fund and was on lecture tour at the time of the alleged assault.

World-Telegram
New York, N. Y.

College President Accused by Girl, 7

FEB 2 1943

By the United Press.

TOLEDO, Ohio, Feb. 2.—Walter S. Kilpatrick, 29-year-old president - in - absentia of Cedarville Ohio College, was indicted today on two counts in connection with an alleged attack upon a seven-year-old girl.

Kilpatrick, acclaimed the nation's youngest college president when he became head of the Ohio institution in 1940, was at liberty under $2500 bond when the indictment charging him with intent to rape and felonious assault was

...Police took Kilpatrick into cus... ...ody three weeks ago after the gir... ...told them he had accosted her on ... Toledo street and took her to a ... hotel room. Kilpatrick is a native ... of West Hartford, Conn.

...College Head ... Sent to Prison ...

7125

Two Women, Mother, Daughter, Attacked By Brutal Ax Killer

Bodies Discovered When Daughter's Employer Goes To Inquire Of Her Health

JAN 15 1943

TULSA, Okla. (AP)—The savagely hacked bodies of a mother and daughter were found on their blood-soaked bed—victims of a sex slayer who attacked them, then prepared a breakfast of eggs and toast and sat on the bed beside the bodies of his victims to eat it.

The slain women are Mrs. Luzzia Stewart, 50, and her daughter, Mrs. Georgia Green, 31. Their bodies, clad in brightly colored pajamas which had been ripped to shreds, were found Thursday night by Mrs. Green's employers who went to the apartment to inquire about her absence from work.

It was the second murder in the neighborhood to follow the same pattern.

Mrs. Helen Brown, 20-year-old expectant mother who lived five blocks from Mrs. Stewart's apartment, was beaten to death in bed last July by an intruder who stayed to cook his breakfast. The case has not been solved.

Police Chief George Plaine pieced together this account of the Stewart-Green killings from an examination of the apartment:

An intruder forced his way in through a window and battered the women's heads with an ax or a hatchet. Then he attacked them, leaving their bodies sprawled grotesquely across the bed.

Afterward the killer ransacked the apartment leaving blood splattered over the bedroom floor and furniture.

JAN 15 1943

Then he prepared a breakfast of eggs and toast and sat down on the bloody bed beside the two dead women to eat it. The ax or hatchet with which the women were killed has not been found by police.

In addition to the killings, there have been numerous sex crimes in the neighborhood in recent months, Blaine said.

Mrs. Green, secretary for a law firm, was the wife of an Army corporal, Jack Green, stationed at Camp Wolters, Tex.

Attacked Them

APR 10 1943

OKLAHOMA CITY.—(ANP)—E. M. Castleberry, 65-year-old white professor of sociology at a white university here, is scheduled to go on trial April 14 before Judge Lewis R. Morris for allegedly criminally assaulting a 13-year-old girl.

APR 10 1943

This is the seventh charge brought against the teacher by teen-aged colored girls, ranging in age from 10 to 14 years old.

All of the complaints charge Castleberry with illegal sex relations. Each is said to have occurred at the Castleberry farm cabin near Edmond, seventeen miles from Oklahoma City.

APR 10 1943

Under $10,000 Bond

A former member of the board of regents at Langston University, Castleberry is well known throughout the State among colored for his work toward the betterment of race relations.

APR 10 1943

He is said to have prepared a written statement in the presence of two witnesses anent the case for the county attorney, but this has not been presented into court. He is now under bonds totaling $10,000.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

WHITE PROF. HELD IN RAPE OF 7 GIRLS

APR 11 1943

OKLAHOMA CITY, Apr. 8—A 65-year-old white professor of sociology at a white university in Oklahoma City, E. M. Castleberry, is scheduled to go on trial April 14, before Judge Lewis R. Morris, on charges of rape resulting from an alleged attack on a 13-year-old girl, his seventh charge on "teen-aged" colored girls, ranging in age from 10 to 14 years old.

All of the complaints charge Castleberry with illegal sex relations. Each is said to have occurred at the Castleberry farm cabin near Edmond, 17 miles from Oklahoma City.

APR 11 1943

A former member of the board of regents at Langston university, Castleberry is well known throughout the state among colored for his work toward betterment of race relations.

APR 11 1943

Aside from the statements from the girls, three boys claim that they accompanied Castleberry to his farm on the day of the incidents. They claim that they found the girls for Castleberry who said he wished them to do house work on his farm. The boys said that their employer sent them to burn brush while the girls stayed at the house to clean it, and that when they inquired why the girls received the most money, Castleberry said they desrved more.

According to the bills filed with Justice Boyer, six of the cases occurred on the following dates: Sept. 15, 1942, with an 11-year-old girl; June 21, 1942, with a 10-year-old girl; June 5, 1942, with a 14-year-old girl; Oct. 1, with a 11-year-old girl Sept. 1, 1942, with a 15-year-old girl, and June 21, with a 13-year-old girl. Castleberry is under bonds totalling $10,000.

APR 11 1943

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md

7 Girls Say White Prof, 65, Held In Rape

APR 18 1943

Aged White Oklahoma Prof. Charged With Rape Of Seven Teen-Age Girls

APR 10 1943

APR 10 1943

OKLAHOMA CITY—Prof. E. M. Castleberry, prominent 63-year-old white educator who teaches sociology at a local university, was held under bonds totaling $10,000 this week on several charges of rape, one of them growing out of an alleged attack on a 12-year-old colored girl.

APR 10 1943

He is slated to go on trial April 14 before Judge Lewis R. Morris. Following his arrest on the original complaint, Castleberry was arrested last week and charged on new cases, all alleging rape on teen-age colored girls.

The new charges bring to seven the number pending against the university professor. All of the complaints allege illegal sex relations with colored girls, ranging in age from 10 to 15 years old.

Castleberry is a former member of the board of regents at Langston university and well known throughout the state among Negroes for his work in bettering race relations.

APR 10 1943

George Miskovsky, county attorney, brought the charges against Castleberry at behest of Mrs. Mable Bassett, state commissioner of charities and corrections. A score of teen-age girls are involved in the investigation of the teacher's alleged acts, and he is being represented by O A. Cargill, well known city lawyer.

APR 10 1943

The new charges were filed Wednesday before Mildred Boyer, justice of the peace, and Castleberry posted $1,000 in each case. He was previously posted a $4,000 bond in the first case, filed before Evert Crismore, justice of the peace.

According to the bills of information in the unusual case which has attracted state-wide attention, the last six cases occurred on the following dates: Sept. 15, 1942, with an 11-year-old girl; June 21, 1942, with a 10-year-old girl; June 5, 1942, with a 14-year-old girl; Oct. 1, with an 11-year-old girl; Sept. 1, 1942, with a 15-year-old girl; and June 21, with a 13-year-old girl.

All the alleged rape incidents occurred at Castleberry's farm cabin, near Edmond, 17 miles from Oklahoma City. In addition to statements from the girls, three young boys who said they accompanied Castleberry to the farm at the time of the alleged incidents, have also signed statements.

APR 10 1943

The boys are: Curtis Williams, 15; Paul Houghton, 16, and Lawrence Hayward, 15. The boys said Castleberry had them secure the girls for him to do house work on his farm.

APR 10 1943

Usually, said the boys, Castleberry would send them to do outside chores, such as burning brush or cleaning up about the farm, while the girls stayed inside, purportedly doing the housework.

APR 10 1943

The boys said that when they discovered the girls were being paid more money, they asked Castleberry about it and he said "the girls deserved more."

APR 10 1943

It was reported that the professor had made a written statement regarding the case to the county attorney's office, has but this statement, it made, was statements from a number of girls said to have not been introduced and the names of a score of others in a court of law. Local citizens who are alleged to have visited the have taken an active interest in Castleberry farm, where several of the case and welfare organizations the girls say they were ravished. are watching closely all developments.

APR 10 1943

One of Castleberry's re- portedly called the whole affair "an

37m-1943
Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

Pennsylvania

7126

JUDGE OFFERS APOLOGIES FOR SPARING SLAYER

Pittsburgh, Pa., June 11 (AP).—A judge who [illegible] not imposing the death sentence on [illegible]ent Earl Perry, 17 years old, to Western penitentiary for life yesterday for raping and slaying Thelma Williams, 4.

"I know there are those who will say I am a coward for not imposing the death sentence," said the judge, C. M. McDonald, "but I could not stand the memory that would stay with me in the years to come if I, the sole arbiter of life or death in this case, ordered his execution."

Perry had switched his plea to guilty on the third day of his trial, thereby transferring from a jury to the judge the duty of determining the penalty. [illegible] defense council said "like to visit the morgue and slept occasionally in a cemetery," said he enticed the girl into his home with a candy bar.

7127

A Carolina 'Rape' Story

9-14-44

(Special to the Daily Worker)

MADISON, S. C., Sept. 13.—A real story of "assault on a white woman" was brought into the open here recently when Chief Deputy Bernard Young trailed the culprit and found him to be a white man who had disguised himself as a Negro in preparation for the assault.

The story is told in a recent issue of **The Messenger**, a small paper of Madison.

The assailant, who later confessed, was Ollie Llewellyn, a tenant on a farm near town, who blackened his face and put on glasses before he stopped Miss Hessie Mabe, a mill worker, on a lonely road and threatened her with a gun. The girl broke loose and ran and the man disappeared.

After her complaint, a Negro was arrested but released when the girl could not identify him. It was later, when deputy sheriff Young was put to work on the case, that the sordid story was unfolded. Young found a pair of soot-spotted dark glasses, fitting the description given by the girl, near a roadside. He studied the nearby countryside and in a certain tobacco barn found places where soot from the flues had been pulled out by human hands. There were footprints which tallied with others he had measured at the scene of the attempted attack.

This caused the deputy sheriff to suspect that the man whom he was trailing was white. He followed tracks which led him to Llewellyn's home and a confession followed.

37m-1943
The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.

...ail Two White Men ...Tenn., For Attacking Girl

JAN 8 - 1943

Murfreesboro, Tenn.—Two Rutherford County white men were in jail here Dec. 23 after having been bound over to the grand jury without bond on a charge of criminally assaulting a 16-year-old colored school girl.

The men were listed as Robert ..., 26, and Cloe Norris, 21, both residents of the Blackman community, northwest of Murfreesboro.

Violation Relates Details

The assault, the girl testified, took place Dec. 15 on Florence Lane, which runs between the Nashville Road and the Manson Pike.

JAN 8 - 1943

The girl lives on this lane and attends Holloway Colored High School at Murfreesboro, riding the Greyhound bus at her family's expense to and from school.

The girl charged at a preliminary hearing before Squire W. F. McCrary that the two white men forced her into their car as she was walking from the bus to her home and that each subsequently attacked her twice.

Physician Finds Evidence

Dr. J. R. Gott, physician who examined the girl shortly after the assault, testified that she was bruised and lacerated worse than any woman he had attended in childbirth. He said that, prior to the attack, the girl was apparently a virgin.

The defendants did not testify, but arresting officers, however, said both men claimed the girl went with them willingly and that they paid her.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

...OND REFUSED ...O MEN BY A ...NN. JUDGE

Negro Community Starts Prosecution Fund For Murfreesboro Case

MURFREESBORO, Tenn.—The pendulum of race relations swung the other way here last Thursday when two Rutherford white men were bound over to the grand jury without bond by Magistrate Frank McCrary on a charge of raping a 16-year-old colored girl on December 15, near her home on Florence Lane, between the Manson and Nashville Pikes.

JAN 16 1943

The men held, both residents of the Blackman community, are Robert Lane, 26, and Cloe Norris. They have been in County jail since December 16, the day after the alleged offense, when they were arrested on warrants sworn out by the girl's father, Fletcher Pinkerton.

At last week's preliminary hearing, the prosecution was handled by Clarence Cummings, Alfred Huddleston and the law firm of Holloway and Price. Howell Washington represented the two defendants. Witnesses at the hearing included the girl, her mother and Dr. J. R. Gott.

Attacked Twice

The girl, a freshman at Holloway high school, walks a mile each day from her home to the highway where she gets the Greyhound bus on which she rides to school. On December 15, at about 5 p.m., she was walking from the highway to her home, when the two young white men drove alongside and tried to coax her into their car, but she steadfastly refused.

She said they passed and repassed her, each time offering her money to get into the car, and she, each time refusing. Finally the girl testified, they stopped, forced her into the car and each of the white men attacked her twice. They later let her out near her home and the girl told her family of the attack. The girl's father immediately brought her to Murfreesboro for a physical examination.

The examining physician, Dr. J. R. Gott, testified at the hearing that the girl was badly bruised and lacerated. He told the court he had delivered babies from women who did not suffer as much damage in childbirth as the attacked girl showed.

JAN 16 194...

Start Fund

Police said that the defendants, who did not testify at the hearing, admitted having intercourse with the girl, but claimed that she went with them willingly and that they paid her money.

The defendants were returned immediately to the County jail after the preliminary hearing. The case will go before the Rutherford County grand jury when it convenes in February.

Negro residents of the community have rallied to the aid of the family in demanding punishment of the rapists. A prosecution fund was started through the Buster Bedford Negro Post of the American Legion and the response was immediate.

At a public meeting last Friday night more than $100 was raised and this sum was increased by donations at churches on Sunday, by various individuals and a number of Negro organizations. The committee in charge of the fund is composed of Preston Scales, chairman, John Killgo and Watt King.

Weekly Review
Birmingham, Ala.

Jury Sentences Two Whites To 10 Years For Rape On Negro Girl

March 27, 1943

MURFREESBORO, Tenn.,—(ANP)—Two whites, Robert Lane, 26, and Cloe Norris, 20, were last week found guilty of raping 16-year-old Lorell Pinkerton, high school girl, last December.

Judge T. L. Coleman fixed the defendents' bond at $3,000 each. Since the arrests the two men have been held in jail without bond. From the beginning, it is said that the entire circuit court jury agreed that the men should be convicted of rape but because they were not in accord about the length of the prison term they deliberated among themselves overnight.

Miss Pinkerton was a first-year student at the Negro high school here. She rides the bus from her home on Jefferson road a few miles north of Murfreesboro. The rape took place while she was enroute from the bus to her home.

Rutherford county Negroes raised the funds to employ three lawyers to assist in the persecution which was led by Dist. Atty. Gen. John J. Jewell, Jr., who brought out the point that the girl was forced into a car by Lane and Norris and was twice raped by each.

S. J. Jackson and Jewell Washington, counsels for the defense, claimed that the girl entered the car willingly and was paid $1.00 by the two men.

The only witnesses for the defense were two brothers, Albert and Leo Brewer, who said that the girl's past record was bad. On cross examination, however, they were unable to support any of their statements.

The court room was filled with spectators. The judge declared that he would arrest any person who created a disturbance of any kind.

A jury was selected from 55 men who were questioned on color prejudice, whether he would allow prejudice to influence his decision.

Two young children testified for the girl: William Gann, 8, said he was in the front yard when he saw a man pushing Lorell into the car. His sister, Susie ann, 11, said she saw the two men twice stop the car and say something to the girl as she walked on the lane near the Bond house. The child said that Lorell did not stop but kept walking.

Lorell's physician, Dr. J. R. Gott, who examined her shortly after the rape, said he found her torn and bleeding internally.

7128

Bee
Chicago, Ill.

That Is Different

MAR 28 194...

TWO white men were recently convicted in the courts of Murfreesboro, Tenn., on the charge of raping a young Negro school girl. According to neews reports, they were given prison sentences of ten years each. We do not stop here to argue whether or not the punishment meted out to these white rapists fits the crime. In that connection we can express surprise that they were even convicted, so, for this reason we are somewhat satisfied in that they were actually convicted and will, in all probability, be punis...

MAR 28 1943

Murfreesboro, Tenn., is in the South. It is down where the black man has little or no right to justice before the law. That partly explains why these white rapists got off so lightly. Had they been Negroes instead of whites; had the girl been a white girl, instead of a Negro girl, then Murfreesboro would have furnished this nation with another example of typical southern American diabolic...m. A lynching would have been the order of the day, and a wave of terrorism would have swept the Negro section just as has been the case in many a southern community like Murfreesboro.

MAR 28 1943

But the girl was colored and the rapists were white. ...yes, that is ... Simon Legree ... and that any Negro woman possessed virtue to any degree, and even if she did, it wasn't worth protecting, because she is a Negro. The descendants of Simon Legree subscribe to, and adhere to, the doctrines of their brutal ancestor with regard to the virtue and value of Negro womanhood. They make a great difference in their courts in meting out punishment against Negroes and against whites. But what a difference a woman a woman for 'a that.' A man is a man for 'a that.' The fact that ... southern whites make a difference ... ing members of the two races to the extent that they lynch one and only imprison the other for the same crimes, merely shows how backward they are, without the power to distinguish between justice and injustice; between substance and shadow. The people of the South may congratulate themselves upon their ability to mis-talk like men but who act like devils incarnate.

MAR 28 1943

37m-1943
Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Virginia

7129

Virginian Sentenced On Statutory Charge

MAR 17 1943

Staunton, Va., March 16 (AP).—Charles Helfson, 29, of Augusta County was sentenced to four years in the State penitentiary yesterday on his plea of guilty to a charge of statutory rape of a 15-year-old girl. The sentence was imposed by Judge Thomas S. Crosby of Augusta Circuit Court.

2 Men Kidnap and Rape Girl

After Lynching
Baltimore, Md.

RICHMOND — A 10-year-old girl living in the Virginia Union University section is recovering this week after two white men posing as military police kidnaped her, took her near Ashland, and one assaulted her criminally.

The girl said that she was at Jefferson and Broad Streets waiting for a trolley when the two men came up in an auto and one, dressed like a soldier and wearing an "M.P." armband, grabbed her and forced her into the auto. After one of the men attacked her, they released her.

The girl said that the two abandoned her at 4 a.m. and that she arrived at home by 8:30 p.m. after walking home.

37m-1943
The Northwest Enterprise
Seattle, Washington

Washington

7130

WIFE ATTACKED, 4 MEN ARRESTED

MAY 5 1943

Four men, three of them soldiers and one a civilian, were being held without charge by police in connection with a criminal assault recently on Mrs. Rafaela Goodloe, 21-years-old, 40[illegible] Main St.

MAY 5 1943

The men were arrested by a detail of military police. The civilian, [illegible] was taken to Harborview County Hospital.

Mrs. Goodloe was suffering from a dislo- [illegible] Mrs. Goodloe and her husband, Pvt. [illegible] Goodloe, Negroes, were walking [illegible] on Jackson Street between 10th and 11th Avenues about 3 o'clock this morning when they were accosted by several Negro soldiers and a Negro civilian, Mrs. Goodloe told police.

MAY 5 1943

One of the soldiers struck Goodloe over the head with a bot- [illegible] and she was seized and dragged into a vacant lot where two of the men attacked her. Her husband sought the assistance of police, who arrested the men.

Mrs. Goodloe was treated at Harborview County Hospital. The civilian denied participating in the attack, declaring that his hip was injured in a previous altercation with the soldiers.

MAY 5 19[illegible]

37m-1943
Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

West Virginia

7131

Father of Six Held in Attack On W. Va. Girl

APR 13 1943

Special Dispatch to The Post

Frederick, Md., April 12.—Stewart Sexton, 37-year-old father of six children was turned over to West Virginia authorities last night by Maryland State police after he had been arrested at his home at Ijamsville on a warrant charging rape of a 15-year-old girl near Charles Town, W. Va., Saturday night. Sexton, employed in a Frederick war plant, waived extradition.

APR 13 1943

According to police Sexton assaulted the girl while she was alone in a farmhouse at Mechanicstown, W. Va. Officers Perry Wilson and T. W. Allen of Charles Town said the girl, who was ironing in her home when her parents left Saturday evening, [illegible] when they returned.

APR 13 1943

Going in search of the girl the mother found her some distance from the house with her hands tied behind her back and newspaper stuffed in her mouth as a gag. She had crawled some distance toward the house from the scene of the alleged assault, which police said occurred about 300 feet from the house.

APR 13 1943

The girl and her parents had formerly resided in Montgomery County on farms in the Gaithersburg and Dickerson sections and moved several years ago to West Virginia. Officials said Sexton was known to the family and was identified by the girl as her attacker.

7046

Urge Gov't Act in Florida Lynching

Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

JUN 17 1943

The lynching of Celos Harrison, at Marianna, Florida, was strongly condemned yesterday by the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties in wires to President Roosevelt, Attorney General Biddle and Governor Spessard L. Holland of Florida, calling upon them to take unequivocal, prompt and firm action to bring to justice all persons in any way responsible for this lynching. The National Federation also called upon all its contacts throughout the country to do likewise.

The wires described the lynching as "a shocking climax of sporadic mob violence against Negroes, Mexican-Americans and other minorities in recent weeks." They pointed out further that "as United Nations move steadily toward victory and as our people move with unprecedented unity to abolish the poll tax, such action is clearly a part of last, desperate efforts of Axis forces and of the poll tax minority to divide and conquer. Therefore such crimes must be met unequivocally, promptly and firmly."

CLUBBED TO DEATH

Celos Harrison, a Negro worker in North Florida, was awaiting his third trial before the [illegible] Supreme Court when he was found beaten and clubbed to death today in the Turpentine woods near Marianna. The Florida Supreme Court had twice set aside a verdict in the trial in which Mr. Harrison had been accused of murdering a white man.

Full text of the telegram sent to the President, to the U. S. Attorney General and the Governor of Florida by Mr. George Marshall, chairman of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, follows:

"Lynching of Celos Harrison of Marianna, Florida, is a shocking climax of sporadic mob violence against Negroes, Mexican-Americans and other minorities in recent weeks. Such action is subversive of American institutions, of national unity for winning the war and of the cause of the United Nations. As the United Nations move steadily toward victory and as our people move with unprecedented unity to abolish the poll tax, such action is clearly a part of last, desperate efforts of Axis forces and of the poll tax minority to divide and conquer. Therefore such crimes must be met unequivocally, promptly and firmly."

Four Men Lynch Prisoner in Florida

World-Telegram

JUN 16 1943

By the Associated Press.

MARIANNA, Fla., June 16.—Celios Harrison, 31, a Negro, was taken from the Jackson County jail early today by four masked men and [illegible] and at daylight on a road five miles south of Marianna, which is 75 miles west of Tallahassee, state capital.

New York, N. Y

Deputy Sheriff A. J. McMullen said Harrison had been killed by blows on his head, and added, "we didn't find any bullet holes in his body."

Night Jailer Tom Belser said four men appeared at the jail after midnight and told him they had a drunken man they wanted locked up. When Belser opened the jail door, one of the men, all of whom were masked, held a pistol on him, while the others took Harrison from his cell. Belser said he didn't recognize any of the men.

A coroner's jury was called to conduct an investigation of Harrison's death.

Harrison once was convicted of the killing of Johnnie Mayo, filling station operator, in a 1940 robbery attempt. His conviction was affirmed by the Supreme Court, and later on a rehearing by the court was reversed on the ground that a confession was not properly admissible as evidence.

The indictment against Harrison then was nol prossed by Circuit Court and Harrison was released. A new indictment was returned by the Jackson County Grand Judy a few weeks ago, and Harrison was being held in jail awaiting trial.

Four Men Take Negro From Jail in Fla.

Bee

Chicago, Ill.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., June 24

(C)—Celos Harrison, 31, was calmly awaiting a third trial on a charge of slaying a white man in Marianna, JUN 27 1943 which is 75 miles west of the capitol, when four men just walked up and took him away.

State highway patrolmen reported him missing and are looking for him but have not as yet been successful. According to Lieut. Reed Clifton of the Highway Patrol, four men appeared at the Marianna jail shortly after midnight and told Tom Belser, night guard, that they had a drunk to put in jail. One man in the party feigned drunkenness, he added.

Clifton quoted the jailer as saying that one of the men pulled a pistol on him and made him stand by while the others took Harrison out of his cell. Gov. Spessard Holland's office ordered Clifton and two highway patrolmen into Marianna to assist local officers if they were needed. A crowd quickly gathered at the jail.

JUN 27 1943

Harrison, a Negro, was twice convicted of murder in the 1940 slaying of a white man, who operated a combination filling station and store in Marianna. He was granted a new trial each time.

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

Negro Lynched In Florida by Four Hoodlums

MARIANA, Fla.—Four white hoodlums, wearing paper sacks over their [illegible] and goggles over their eyes, last Tuesday seized Celios Harrison, 26, from the Marianna jail, lynched him, and left his lifeless body beside a country road five miles from the city.

JUN 19 1943

Harrison, twice convicted of the slaying of John Mayo, white filling station operator, in February, 1940, had been granted stays of execution when the issue of a forced confession had been raised.

JUN 19 1943

A coroner's jury said that Harrison died from wounds inflicted by a blunt instrument, held in the hand of a person or persons unknown.

The jailer claimed that the men came in claiming to have a drunk they wanted locked up, which story doesn't tie up with the report that they were masked and wore gloves. The jailer claims in one report, that after gaining entrance on the drunk ruse, they held him at bay with a gun and seized his prisoner. Later reports said there were Negro employees failed to report for work. Thousands of workers at the Pennsylvania shipyards walked out and said they would not return to work until order was restored.

JUN 19 1943

At nearby Orange, Texas, hundreds of colored workers were turned back at the gates of the Consolidated Steel Corp, and told to go home and stay there.

Texas State guardsmen rounded up approximately 75 white men who were active in the disturbance and were holding them at police headquarters.

Angry Mob Defender Lynches Fla. Man

MARIANNA, Fla.—Angry because Celos Harrison, 40-year-old local Negro, was granted a new murder trial by the state supreme court, a mob dragged Harrison from the Jackson county jail here this week and lynched him five miles south of here.

JUN 26 1943

The new trial ordered by the high court was to start on Monday. The mob apparently was determined that there would be no retrial based on the supreme court's contention that Harrison's purported confession of killing a white filling station operation in 1940 was obtained under "influences calculated to delude the mind of the ignorant Negro of its far-reaching consequences."

Night Jailer Tom Belser claimed that four men wearing paper sacks for masks came to the jail shortly after midnight and told him they had a drunken man they wanted locked up.

Defender

Beaten By Mob

When he opened the gate, he asserted, one man pointed a gun at him and forced him to stand by while the other removed Harrison from his cell. Belser said he did not know the men were masked when he opened the jail gate.

JUN 26 1943

Belser and Police Sergeant J. Roberts both said they did not know the identity of any of the

7046

[illegible] Roberts said Harrison had been given a "considerable beating" before he was killed. His body was found in a roadside ditch by state highway patrolmen and deputies.

Deputy Sheriff A. J. Mullen reported "We are investigating the case." No arrests were made.

A coroner's jury convened for the inquest decided that Harrison "came to his death from wounds inflicted by a blunt or sharp instrument in the hands of an unknown person or persons."

Gov. Spessard L. Holland was out of the state and other state officials at the capital refused to

Rape Attack, Phone Insults Stir Manhunt

NOV 9 1943

Chicago, Ill.

Chicago Tribune

Lewistown, Ill., Nov. 8 [Special].—A Negro soldier was shot and killed today near Camp Ellis by a posse of farmers organized after several women in farm homes near the military reservation received insulting telephone calls over a rural party line.

NOV 9 1943

This was announced tonight by Jesse Provard, chief deputy sheriff of Fulton county, who said an investigation is being conducted by State's Atty. Lagadan Crissey and Deputy Sheriff Jack Lindeen.

Provard said the telephone calls came from the home of George Quigley, a farmer whose property adjoins the camp, which was the scene of a rape attack by a Negro soldier Thursday night. Provard said the Quigleys were not at home last night and that the calls are believed to have been made by a person who invaded the house in their absence.

Unable to Identify Rapist

NOV 9 1943

Last Thursday, according to Provard, a Negro came to the Quigley home with a gun and forced Quigley to stand by a window while he raped Mrs. Quigley. The next day Mrs. Quigley looked at several hundred Negro soldiers at Camp Ellis without being able to identify her assailant.

The public relations office at Camp Ellis refused to make public details of the shooting, altho it was said officially that a Negro soldier had been killed. Residents in the vicinity of the camp said military authorities had warned them not to

KELLS THE BEE

Chicago, Illinois

Rumors, fanned by the wide-ly-publicized raping of a white woman near Camp Ellis, Ill., and the slaying of a soldier surprised in the [illegible] farmhouse in which she reached inflammatory proportions this week when [illegible] pored over [illegible]

RUMOR FALSE

Bee

CAMP OFFICER

...be tried by court-martial unless civilian authorities formally request jurisdiction, military officials stated Wednesday. A verdict of justifiable homicide was returned at the coroner's inquest into Willis' death Tuesday night at Lewistown, Ill., where Camp Ellis is located. State's Atty. Lachlan Crissey stated earlier this week that no action was contemplated against the farmers until "after the inquest." 11-14-43

...been lynched ... by a posse of farmers. Strongly-worded protests ... the soldier's killing ... been sent ... President Roosevelt, Secretary of War Stimson and ... local, state and national officials ... taking immediate steps to protect other Negro soldiers from ... civilian atrocities." 11-14-43

The BEE, in an effort to verify the report Wednesday ... Camp Ellis public relations officer, Captain Thomas Bellender. The army officer denied the lynching report. His statement was later corroborated by an officer from the Sixth Service Command here, who stated he was in the town when the incident occurred.

"Secrecy" Indicated. 11-17-43

Both were emphatic in their denials that any mob action had taken place at the place. "There was no lynching," Captain Bellender stated. His next assertion scotched the implication that efforts had been made to "hide the facts." He referred to the shotgun slaying of Pvt. Holley Willis of Chicago, which he stated, had received wide publicity in the daily press. 11-14-43

Willis was shot and killed around midnight Sunday when he allegedly attempted to flee from the farmhouse which had been vacated by the rape victim and her family shortly after the alleged crime was committed. The soldier, the public relations officer asserted, was fired on as he hurled a block of wood at three farmers who had surrounded the house in search of the rape suspect. (Daily papers identified four whites in the group of farmers at the farmhouse when Willis was killed.)

Phone Calls Traced. 11-14-43

Their presence was explained by frequent calls to women in the vicinity from a "party line" traced to the empty Quigley residence. The caller, it was stated, made "indecent proposals." 11-14-43

The slain soldier was a member of the 131st Engineering regiment at Camp Ellis, and a native of Chicago.

Military authorities are holding another Negro soldier, Pvt. Morris Nichols of Cincinnati, also a member of the Engineers regiment. Nichols, Captain Bellender stated, confessed to the attack on Mrs. Quigley, wife of the Fulton county road commissioner. The couple were accosted near their home and Quigley forced aside with a gun. 11-14-43

Soldier Confesses Rape.

Nichols, who had been A.W.O.L. from camp for four days, signed a confession Monday admitting the criminal assault. He

Soldier Lynched At Camp Ellis By Farm Posse

Chicago Defender

Chicago, Illinois

LEWISTOWN, Ill.—A veil of mystery was drawn around the lynching of a Negro soldier from Camp Ellis by a posse of white farmers here Sunday night around midnight.

Military authorities early in the week refused to give the name of the soldier who was shot and killed by the mob of farmers but cleared the victim of a rape accusation by a farmer's wife. 11-13-43

Jesse Prowant, chief deputy sheriff of Fulton county, admitted that he had the names of at least four farmers in the posse but on Tuesday still refused to make any arrests.

Background of the lynching was a strange tale of alleged rape and a series of mysterious phone calls to women in farm homes near the military reservation which has about 40,000 soldiers.

Killed With Shotgun

The unnamed soldier victim of the mob was allegedly caught by the group making telephone calls from a white farmer's home during the owner's absence. Members of the posse claimed they called to him to come out but instead he blew out the lamp and stepped onto the porch with a club which he threw at the group. 11-13-43

One of the mob then fired a shotgun, according to a member of the posse. The Negro soldier died about 15 minutes later.

The lynch victim was supposed to have been in the home of George Quigley, whose wife was reported the victim of a rape attack by a Negro soldier on Thursday of last week. The house adjoins the military camp. Nov. 13, 1943

Can't Identify Soldier

Since then the Quigleys allegedly were not at home, and moved to Quigley's father's farm several miles away.

Following the rape, Mrs. Quigley looked at several hundred soldiers at the camp and failed to identify the man who was reported to have entered the house and held a gun on Mr. Quigley while he raped his wife.

Sunday night, it was said, several farm women received insulting telephone calls over a rural party line. These were traced to the Quigley house and a posse formed to go after the man who is supposed to have invaded the house in the absence of the family.

The public relations office at Camp Ellis refused to make public details of the shooting, although it was said officially that a Negro soldier had been killed. Residents in the vicinity of the camp said military authorities had warned them not to talk about the shooting. Nov. 13, 1943

Dr. Mark S. Nelson, coroner of Fulton county, said Maj. H. R. Miller, medical officer at Camp Ellis, had asked him to go to the camp to hold an inquest.

Refuses to Go to Camp

He said he refused to do this taking the position the inquest should be held in Lewistown because the shooting took place off the military reservation.

Dr. Nelson said he gave military authorities permission to conduct a post mortem examination, however, and that the question of where and when an inquest will be held remains undecided. He said Major Miller informed him the Negro killed was not the Negro who raped Mrs. Quigley. 11-13-43

An investigation is being started by State's Attorney Lachlan Crissey and Deputy Sheriff Jack

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

BELIEVE ALABAMA MOB HAS LYNCHED

Mystery Surrounds Death of Willie Lee Cooper on August 9

Birmingham, Sept. 16—(ANP)—Circumstances surrounding the mysterious death of Willie Lee Cooper on Aug. 9 at Beatrice, Ala., fit all the definitions of a lynching, the Birmingham Branch NAACP charged Wednesday in a request that a s... federal authorities make a searching investigation of the case.

Officials of the local branch charged that Cooper, a garage mechanic employed by Edward and Wilbert Owens, white of Monroeville, Va., one of whom is a deputy sheriff, left his job without notice, was hunted down by the two Owens' brothers aided by Sheriff Nichols of Monroe county, and that when Owens found Cooper he took him away in an automobile.

Later, the report says, the Owens brothers and a Dr. Eddins turned up at the home of a Bill Stallworth and asked him to "fix a bed for Willie Lee" saying that he had been hurt. Finding accomodations unavailable, the report of the branch says, Cooper was carried to a hospital in Repton, Ala.

The NAACP report said that "Dr. Carter said, according to the statement made by the doctor in charge of the hospital, the three men brought Cooper to the hospital about 11 o'clock that night, with head and face badly bruised, arm broken, and body beaten into a pulp."

The doctor revealed that upon asking Cooper how he got hurt, he was told by the fatally wounded man, "I am afraid to tell, they will beat me again if I tell." Winning the beaten man's confidence, the report says, Dr. Carter was told that he had been beaten. He died about eight o'clock the next morning.

Bill Cooper, father of the slain man, came to see his son, stopping at the Owens garage, the report says, where he was told that his son was injured and was doing fine in the hospital, when a telephone call telling of the death of Willie Lee interrupted the conversation.

The victim, according to the report, was denied embalming service at Monroeville. No certificate of death showing cause was issued, the NAACP officials learned. Cooper was buried ceremoniously on August 11.

Personal property of Cooper's possession when he left ... with the Owens brothers including his clothing, social security card, gas ration book and money totalling $112 have not been accounted for, the report said:

When found by the Owens brothers after leaving the job, Willie Lee is said to have been asked to go back to the garage to help fix a tractor.

DEMAND PROBE OF ALA. DEATH

Courier-Pittsburgh Pa.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Sept. 16—The Birmingham branch of the NAACP turned up Wednesday, Sept. 8, with sufficiently complete evidence to brand the mysterious death August 9 of Willie Lee Cooper, garage mechanic, as a "lynching" and to make an instant demand on state and federal authorities for an immediate investigation of the case.

The NAACP expose disclosed that Cooper, employed by Edward and Wilbert Owens, white brothers of Monroeville, one of whom is a deputy sheriff, allegedly left his job without notice and that Cooper was later hunted by the Owens' brothers with the aid of Monroe County Sheriff Nichols, was found and taken away in an automobile and, eventually, a Dr. Eddins came to the home of a Bill Stallworth, who had been asked to prepare a bed for Cooper, who, according to their statement to Stallworth, had been hurt.

VICTIM WAS AFRAID TO "TALK"

The NAACP report indicated, further, that Cooper was later brought to him around 11 o'colck that night in August—his head and face badly bruised, an arm broken, and his body whipped to pulp. The physician said he asked the victim how he had come to be in such a condition. Early next morning, was told by Cooper that he was afraid to tell—that they might beat him up again.

Cooper died around eight o'clock the next morning.

370-1943

Ga. Youth Kidnapped, Brutally Beaten By Sheriff In First Lynching Of 1943

ALBANY, Ga. — (ANP) — After an absence of two years the state of Georgia swung back into the lynch column, earning with the brutal beating to death of youthful Robert Hall the dubious distinction of providing the first illegal execution of 1943, it was learned this week.

Behind the death of Hall was a story of white hot hatred, the misuse of police authority, the forging of a warrant, a midnight abduction and a fiction-like conspiracy to take the life of a human being, that is so often told in the south.

Hall was arrested Friday, Jan. 29, after he had been forced out of bed on automobile theft charges in a fake warrant served by Sheriff Claude Screws of Baker county, accompanied by Policeman Frank Jones.

Deny Theft

Positive proof that the warrant was a fake came to light this week with the testimony of John C. Derm, owner of the truck from which the tire was allegedly stolen, that no tire had been removed from the vehicle and that he had preferred no charges against young Hall. Derm's testimony was corroborated by his brother, George C. Derm, both of whom denied that they had signed any warrant.

Placed under arrest after the midnight visit by the minions of the law, Hall was at first thought to have been lodged in the Baker county jail.

It was not until 2:30 o'clock Saturday morning, January 30, that what had really happened to Hall came to light. It was at that hour that employes of an Albany funeral home received an ambulance call to come to Newton, Ga., about 15 miles away and get a "nigger I had to beat up."

The call relayed from a hospital in Albany was reported to have been sent by Sheriff Screws. The ambulance attendants got the badly battered and bruised man from the jail, where the jailer asserted that he had not been touched since his arrival. He said the victim was brought to the jail in the condition in which he was found.

Hall, rushed to an Albany hospital, died a few minutes after he had been admitted.

The body bore 21 abrasions and contusions, and deep cuts in the wrists, lending observers to believe that he had been tied behind an automobile and dragged over rough ground.

The back of his head had been beaten so badly, it was described as being as "soft as a ripe tomato." The clothes were torn to shreds and the entire body was covered with dirt, further evidence that he had been dragged behind a speeding car.

Motive for the attack was supplied by several white Baker county residents after they had viewed the youth's remains. Sheriff Screws, it was disclosed, had become angry with Hall after the lynch victim had appeared before the grand jury seeking to recover a pistol which had been removed from the pocket of his car by Sheriff Screws.

No Charge Filed

An expert mechanic, Hall enjoyed the respect of both races of citizens in Baker county. He helped repair all of the tractors and farm implements in this section.

At the funeral was his brother, Pvt. Howard Hall, who obtained leave from the army to attend. His father, a farmer and land-owner, sat grief-stricken throughout the services held Wednesday, Feb. 3.

Besides his parents, the victim is survived by his widow, a young son, three sisters and four brothers, all of whom reside in Baker county.

Thus far no charges have been filed against Sheriff Screws, who for several days was strangely absent from the community. Returning Wednesday, he was placed under the care of a physician and reports have been spread that he is suffering with a "nervous breakdown."

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

GEORGIA HAS 1ST LYNCHING OF THE YEAR

FEB 14 1943

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Motive for the attack was supplied by several white Baker county residents after they had viewed the youth's remains. Sheriff Screws, it was disclosed, had become angry with Hall after the lynch victim had appeared before the grand jury seeking to recover a pistol which had been removed from the pocket of his car by Sheriff Screws.

An expert mechanic, Hall enjoyed the respect of both races of citizens in Baker County. He helped repair all of the tractors and farm implements in this section.

At the funeral was his brother, Pvt. Howard Hall, who obtained leave from the army fighting for democracy to attend. His father, a farmer and land-owner, sat grief-stricken throughout the services held Wednesday Feb. 3.

Besides his parents, the victim is survived by his widow, a young son, three sisters and four brothers, all of whom reside in Baker county.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

GA. GOVERNOR TOLD TO OUST LYNCH SHERIFF

FEB 28 1943

NEW YORK, N. Y., Feb. 25— The arrest and prosecution on charge of murder of Sheriff Claude Screws and Night Policeman Frank Jones for the lynching of Robert Hall at Newton, Ga., January 29 was demanded this week by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in a letter to Governor Ellis Arnall. Arnall was asked to remove Screws from office pending action against him.

The N.A.A.C.P. stated that affidavits which it had secured and sent to the United States Department of Justice immediately after the lynching named Screws and Jones as the persons last seen with Hall before his death. The N.A.A.C.P. had applied the Department of Justice with pictures of Hall's body as it appeared when received by the undertaker. The lynch victim's body bore 21 abrasions, his skull had been beaten until soft and his wrists deeply cut.

"We are certain," the N.A.A.C.P. said, "that the state of Georgia under your administration does not intend that a citizen, no matter how humble, shall be snatched from his home at midnight without a warrant (and in this case, without even an oral charge of any serious crime) and murdered while in the custody of peace officers.

"All reports point to the fact that Screws and Jones called for Hall at his home at midnight, handcuffed him and took him away, presumably to jail. The next information comes from a hospital which declares that it received a telephone call from Sheriff Screws ordering the removal of Hall from the jail to the hospital."

7047

Weekly Review
Birmingham, Ala.

Georgia Stages First 1943 Lynching

DISCOVER FIRST LYNCHING OF YEAR IN GEORGIA; SHERIFF ALLEGED TO BE ABDUCTOR

ALBANY, Feb.—(ANP) — After an absence of two years the lynch column, opening with the brutal beating to death of youth- of Georgia swung back into the ful Robert Hall the dubious distinction of providing the first illegal execution of 1943, it was learned this week.

Behind the death of Hall was a story of white hot hatred, the misuse of police authority, the forging of a warrant, kidnaping, abduction and finally murder. Efficiency to [illegible] the [illegible] human beings put into the south.

Hall was arrested Friday, Jan. 29, after he had been forced out of bed on automobile theft charges in a fake warrant served by Sheriff Claude Screws of Baker county, accompanied by Policeman Frank Jones.

Positive proof that the warrant was a fake came to light this week with the testimony of John C. Derm, owner of the truck from which the tire was allegedly stolen, that no tire had been removed from the vehicle and that he had preferred no charges against young Hall. Derm's testimony was corroborated by his brother, George W. Derm, both of whom denied that they had signed any warrant.

Placed under arrest after the midnight visit by the minions of the law, Hall was not first thought to have been lodged in the Baker county jail.

It was not until 2:30 o'clock on Saturday morning, Jan. 30, that what had really happened to Hall came to light. It was at that hour that employes of an Albany funeral home received an ambulance call to come to Newton, Ga., about 15 miles away to get a "nigger I had to beat up."

The call relayed from a hospital in Albany was reported to have been sent by Sheriff Screws. The ambulance attendant got the badly battered and bruised man from the jail, where the jailer asserted that he had not been touched since his arrival, and that the victim was brought to the jail in the condition in which he was found.

Hall, rushed to an Albany hospital, died a few minutes after he had been admitted.

The body bore 21 abrasions and contusions and deep cuts in the waistes, lending observers to believe that he had been tied behind an automobile and dragged over rough ground.

The back of his head had been beaten badly, it was described as being as "soft as a ripe tomato." The clothes were torn to shreds and the entire body was covered with dirt, further evidence that he had been dragged behind a speeding car.

Motive for the attack was supplied by several white Baker county residents after they had viewed the youth's remains. Sheriff Screws, it was disclosed, had become angry with Hall after the lynch victim had appeared before the grand jury seeking to recover a pistol that had been removed from the pocket of his car by Sheriff Screws.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

Sheriff, Cop Suspected in Ga. Lynching

FEB 13 1943

Mechanic, Arrested on Fake Theft Warrant, Found Dying

ALBANY, Ga. — (ANP)—The first lynching of 1943 has been recorded here, with Robert Hall, widely respected young automobile mechanic, as victim and two white peace officers as suspects.

Hall, arrested on a fake theft warrant, died in an Albany hospital early on the morning of January 30, a few minutes after being brought from the Newton, Ga., jail bearing twenty-one contusions and abrasions.

The back of his head had been beaten soft while deep cuts on his wrists, his shredded clothing and dirt on his body indicated that he may have been dragged behind a speeding automobile.

Warrant Called Forgery

The warrant, charging the theft of tires from a truck, was served by Sheriff Claude Screws of Baker County, accompanied by Policeman Frank Jones.

John C. Derm, white, named as victim of the alleged theft, has since denied that he made any accusation against Hall, or that any tires had been taken from his truck by anyone.

FEB 13 1943

Hospital attendants expressed belief that Sheriff Screws placed a call from the Newton jail for an ambulance "to get a 'n——' I had to beat up."

Hall a Land Owner

Hall, married and the father of a young boy, was the son of an independent farmer who owned his land. He had three sisters and four brothers, including Pvt. Howard Hall of the U.S. Army.

According to several white Baker County residents, Hall had incurred the sheriff's anger by appearing before a grand jury to recover a pistol that the latter allegedly removed from a pocket of Hall's car.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Negro Beaten to Death

Marianna, Fla., June 16.—A group of men broke into the Marianna jail early today, seized Cellos Harrison, 26-year-old Negro twice convicted of murder, and beat him to death.

His body was found on a highway south of Marianna.

Jailer Tom Belcher said a group of men appeared shortly after midnight and declared they had a drunk in two who ought to be locked up. Belcher opened the door to investigate, and the mob pushed in.

JUN 17 1943

The Negro was scheduled to go to trial June 21 for the hammer-slaying of Johnnie Mayo, filling station operator on February 5, 1940. Two convictions were set aside.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

PRISONER LYNCHED

Marianna, Fla., June 16 (AP).—Cellos Harrison, 31 year old Negro, charged with killing a white man, was taken from the Jackson county jail early today by four masked men and clubbed to death, Deputy Sheriff A. J. McMullen said.

JUN 17 1943

Harrison's body was found at daylight on a road five miles south of Marianna.

McMullen said Harrison had been killed by blows on his head, and added, "We didn't find any bullet holes in his body."

JUN 17 1943

Night Jailer Tom Belser said four appeared at the jail soon after midnight and told him they had a drunk man they wanted locked up. When Belser opened the jail door one of the men, all of whom were masked, held a pistol on him, while the others took Harrison from his cell.

Belser said he didn't recognize any of the men.

JUN 17 1943

Lt. Reid Clifton of the state highway patrol headquarters in Tallahassee and four highway patrolmen were sent here upon instructions from Gov. Spessard Holland's office to help local officers. Several persons gathered about the jail during the early morning but there was no further disturbance.

Sheriff Barkley Gauss is in Ocala attending a convention of the state sheriffs' association.

A coroner's jury was called to investigate Harrison's death.

Harrison once was convicted for the 1940 killing of Johnnie Mayo, filling station operator, in a robbery attempt. His conviction was affirmed by the Supreme court, and then, on rehearing by the court, it was reversed on the ground that a confession was not properly admissible as evidence.

The indictment against Harrison then was nol prossed by the Circuit court and Harrison was released. A new indictment was returned by the Jackson county grand jury JUN 17 1943 weeks ago and Harrison was being held in jail awaiting trial.

In reversing the original conviction, the state Supreme court said a signed confession used against Harrison at his trial was obtained under "influences calculated to delude the mind of the ignorant Negro of its far reaching consequences." The court did not elaborate.

Harrison's trial had been set for Monday.

Negro Awaiting 2d Murder Trial Taken From Florida Jail and Slain

Deputy Sheriff A. J. McMullen reported, "We are investigating the case." Sheriff Barkley Gauss is in Ocala, attending the State sheriffs' convention.

Jail Entered On Hoax.

Tom Belser, night jailer, said four men came to the jail shortly after midnight and told him they had a drunken man they wanted locked up. He opened the gate, and several men, all masked, held guns, forced him to [illegible] by while the others removed Harrison from his cell. Belser said the men had paper sacks over their heads and he didn't recognize them. He didn't know they were masked, he said, when he opened the jail gate.

Harrison's body was found about daylight in a roadside ditch five miles south of Marianna by state highway patrolmen and deputies who conducted a search.

Court Ordered New Trial.

Harrison was charged with killing Johnnie Mayo, a white filling station operator, in 1940 by beating him on the head with a hammer. He previously had been convicted, but the State Supreme court, on a rehearing, ordered a new trial, holding a [illegible] obtained under influences calculated to delude the mind of the ignorant Negro of its far-reaching consequences." Marianna is seventy-five miles west of Tallahassee. It has population of 34,427, with 36 per cent listed as Negro.

Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.

3 Men Enter Cell By Ruse

Marianna, Fla., June 16 (AP)—Cellos Harrison, Negro awaiting trial Monday for the slaying of a white man, was taken from the Jackson County jail here today by a group of masked men and several hours later was found beaten to death.

A coroner's jury, conducting an inquest, decided Harrison "came to his death from wounds inflicted by a blunt or sharp instrument in the hands of an unknown person or persons."

No arrests have been made.

Man Killed In Fla. Jail

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

After Seizure

MARIANNA, Fla. (S N S)—The body of [illegible] was found on [illegible] day morning. Charged with killing a white man, Harrison was taken from the county jail by four masked men and beaten to death. The death of Harrison reminded many of the lynching of Claud Neal in Marianna seven years ago. Removed from an Alabama jail to Marianna, [illegible] whites were given [illegible] that the prisoner was to arrive. The lynching was one of the most brutal of all time.

370-1943

7048

Murder in the Deep South — The Story Behind a Lynching

By MILTON R. KONVITZ

The newspapers reported in a few lines that on June 16th a group of men took Cellos Harrison from the Jackson County Jail in Marianna, Florida, and beat him to death. The reports also stated, in a line or two, that Harrison was to go on trial on June 21st for the murder of a filling station operator.

The lynching of Cellos Harrison cannot be glossed over with merely a bare reference. The facts are dramatic and the implications are of great significance.

Johnnie Mayo owned and operated a small store and filling station on a road near Marianna. On the morning of February 5, 1940, his wife went out, and when she returned she found Mayo lying in a pool of blood. Mayo told the physician who saw him that a "yellow Negro" had hit him. Shortly thereafter Mayo died.

Cellos Harrison, then 20 years of age, lived with his wife in Marianna. He had been in the habit of coming to Mayo's store nearly every day to purchase a little whiskey. Immediately after the murder several Negroes, including Harrison, were arrested, but all were released soon thereafter.

Harrison continued to live in the town and, as a matter of fact, *continued in his employment across the street from the County Court House. Fifteen months later* he was again arrested. The Supreme Court of Florida in its first opinion in the case, pointed out that the arrest came as the result of a conference between the newly-elected Sheriff and a State investigator. The arrest was made on May 19, 1941. On May 30 while in jail, and in the presence of the Sheriff, three Deputy Sheriffs and a State investigator, Harrison signed a "voluntary" confession.

Two weeks later, on June 13th, he was indicted. He had no money with which to retain an attorney, so the Court appointed counsel. Ten days after the indictment he was placed on trial. On the following day the jury returned a verdict of guilty, with no recommendation of mercy. He was sentenced to death by electrocution.

The "confession" was the sole basis of the conviction; yet the trial court failed to charge the jury on the rule of law that confessions should be considered and weighed by courts and juries with great caution, for it is well-known that men, through fear of personal punishment, or through hope of averting such punishment, confess that they are guilty of crimes without the slightest foundation in truth for such confessions.

On appeal to the Supreme Court of Florida the Court reversed the judgment of conviction on the ground that the lower court committed reversible error when it failed to charge the jury on the above rule of law. The Court ordered a new trial.

Again he was tried and convicted, and again his case came before the State Supreme Court. At the second trial the Judge gave a proper charge to the jury; so now the only question before the higher court was whether or not the use of the "confession," which was the sole basis of the conviction, violated the Florida and United States Constitutions. The Court this time divided four to three in favor of an affirmance.

Mr. Justice Chapman, in his dissenting opinion, stated that the circumstances preceding the signing of the confession "are such as to create in my mind an abiding conviction that it was obtained by influences calculated to delude the mind of an immature and ignorant colored boy of its far-reaching import and legal sequences."

THE NEW YORK TIMES, THURSDAY, JUNE

Texas City Under Martial Law As Races Clash in Beaumont Riots

Negro's Attack on Woman Starts Violence in Which White Man Is Killed and Work at Shipyard Halted

By The Associated Press

BEAUMONT, Tex., June 18—Martial law was declared in Texas-most today in a sequel to violence between Negroes and whites which caused one fatality, injured at least seven persons, disrupted numerous businesses and virtually shut down a shipyard.

The riots were precipitated by the rape of a young white woman, the mother of three children.

Texas Rangers, State defense guards and police patrolled the city. After fifteen hours of sporadic outbreaks, the situation became tense. At Austin, Adjt. Gen. A. M. Aikin said he had declared martial law at the request of city leaders and public officials.

Ellis Cleveland Brown, about 30, a white carpenter on a naval project, died from [illegible] still. A bus driver and [illegible] Negroes, Isaac Brown, whose draft card listed his home as Shreveport, La.

A large mob which gathered at the city jail about midnight was dispersed by the women attack victim, who told them she had identified the jail and the attacker was not there.

Negroes employed at the Consolidated Shipyards were escorted home by deputized guards when they left the night shift at 7 A. M., but one of them was beaten just outside the gates.

MARIANNA, Fla., June 16 (AP)—Cellos Harrison, a Negro awaiting trial Monday on a charge of killing a white man, was taken from the Jackson County Jail here early today by a group of men and several hours later he was found beaten to death.

A coroner's jury, conducting an inquest, decided Harrison "came to his death from wounds inflicted by a blunt or sharp instruments in the hands of an unknown person or persons."

Harrison was to be tried Monday on a charge of killing Johnnie Mayo, white filling station operator, in 1940. He previously had been convicted, but the State Supreme Court ordered a new trial.

WHERE THE HEADLINES END

21 lines appeared last week in the N. Y. Times on the murder of Cellos Harrison. This week The New Leader prints the exclusive story of the lynching by Milton Konvitz, associate counsel, WAACP.

He went on to say: "It is admitted that without the signed confession it is impossible to sustain the judgment of conviction and imposition of the death penalty. Poverty, like a huge stone hung about the neck, deterred the development of beneficial facts of the controversy from the moment of appellant's arrest until the death penalty was imposed."

The dissenting Justice, speaking for himself and two associates, pointed out that upon his arrest Harrison was taken to a jail in a town fifty miles away from his family and friends, where he was held "incommunicado"; when he was visited by three deputy sheriffs and he refused to "talk," he was told "that some dark night he would be taken out and then he would talk"; Harrison knew that a short time previously another Negro was taken from the same jail and lynched; that after this lynching, Harrison was taken to a different jail, thus instilling in him a fear of actual danger life and limb; when he was thus being moved from one jail to another he "confessed"; he had no attorney, and counsel for him could not be appointed until after he was indicted, and the indictment was returned after he had "confessed"; while in the automobile taking him from one jail to another he was handcuffed, and the car was being driven at a high rate of speed, and "it is deducible that the car was driven at a high rate of speed for the alleged protection of the appellant"; that Harrison was promised that if he would confess, he would get off with a life sentence.

The action of the Supreme Court, upholding the conviction by one vote, took place on December 18, 1942. At this point the attorney for Harrison asked the Court to reconsider, and on January 28, 1943, the Court, by a vote of four to three, granted the petition for rehearing, and thereafter Mr. Justice Adams changed his position and voted to set aside the conviction. The result, then, was that the judgment of conviction was reversed by a vote of four to three.

Was Harrison to be again tried? A motion was made to have the Court's decision clarified. The Court, again by vote of four to three, stated that "the evidence is insufficient to sustain a conviction without the confession."

That meant that, after nearly two years in jail, Cellos Harrison was a free man. He was released.

About five days later the Grand Jury of Jackson County was convened, and Cellos Harrison was again indicted for the murder of Johnnie Mayo.

Certainly the authorities of the County could not have contemplated another trial, for two reasons: (1) they had not a shred of evidence to offer against him, for the Supreme Court had ruled out the confession, and had said, too, that without the confession the conviction could not stand up under legal scrutiny; (2) both the Declaration of Rights of the Florida Constitution and the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution provide against double jeopardy, and under this provision the second indictment was a nullity.

On June 14 Harrison's attorney, Clyde W. Atkinson, appeared before the Supreme Court for a writ of prohibition and habeas corpus. The Court listened with interest and reserved decision. It looked as if Harrison was again to be freed.

On June 15 the prisoner was dead.

Was Cellos Harrison again indicted so that he might be again arrested . . . and the honor, dignity, "law and order" of Florida "vindicated" by a lynching?

Officers Accused of Inciting Mob To Kill Innocent Negro Ex-Soldier

PM's Bureau

New York, N. Y., July 14.—The indictment of 13 persons, including a sheriff and three of his deputies, in the lynching of James Edward Person, a Negro ex-soldier, near Paris, Ill., last Oct. 12, was announced by the Justice Dept. last night.

The indictment, voted by a Federal grand jury at East St. Louis, Ill., charges that the accused men circulated false rumors about Person, who had recently been honorably discharged from the Army.

'Incited Mob'

Person, the indictment continued, was peaceably making his way through Vigo [illegible] when the accused men "persuaded" a mob to hunt him down.

The Justice Dept. report said Person was accused of "peeking into farm windows and scaring farm women." Two men waylaid him near Libertyville, Ind., fired a shotgun at him, then led a "posse" which chased him across the state line into Illinois.

The wounded Negro took shelter, about six hours after the shooting, in the home of James Strickler, an [illegible] Person [illegible] the house.

On Nov. 26, 44 days later, a former Deputy Sheriff John Trotweiler, [illegible] James Elli[illegible] and Pearl Mil[illegible] Kiado, all of Vigo County, Ind., and Ernest Poynter, James Houston, Ed Garwood, [illegible] Bozarth, Herbert R. Tweedy and Charles Price, of Edgar County, Ill.

The specific charge is that the accused men, "acting under the color of state law," conspired to violate the Civil Rights statues by denying Person his right not to be deprived of life or liberty without due process of law as guaranteed by the Constitution.

Federal agents were sent to the scene to investigate [illegible] the body was found embedded [illegible] Two-Year Maximum

The maximum penalty is two years imprisonment and a $5000 fine.

The indictment stated that Person had committed no offense, that no warrant was outstanding for his arrest, and that no one had probable or reasonable cause to believe, or reliable information to indicate that he had committed or would commit any crime.

Justice Dept. officials said the Tennessee Legion post which filed the complaint learned of the lynch murder from Person's father, who lives at Summerville, Tenn.

Masked Men Take Victim From Jail; Riot in Texas

Bystander

Des Moines, Iowa

JUN 7 1943

Marianna, Fla.—Celos Harrison, 31 year-old Negro charged with killing a white man, was taken from the Jackson county jail early Wednesday by four masked men and apparently clubbed to death.

Harrison's body was found at daylight on a road five miles south of Marianna.

Deputy Sheriff A. J. McMillen said Harrison had been killed by blows on his head and added, "we didn't find any bullet holes in his body."

Night Jailer Tom Belser said four men appeared at the jail soon after midnight and told him they had a drunk man they wanted locked up. When Belser opened the jail door one of the men, all of whom were masked, held a pistol on him, while the others took the keys from his cell.

Belser said he didn't recognize any of the men.

Five highway patrolmen were sent here upon instructions from Governor Holland's office to help ocal officers. Several persons gathered about the jail during the early morning, but there was no further disturbance.

Poetic Justice Comes To Negro Killer In Georgia

Chicago Defender

Chicago, Illinois

(Special Washington Bureau)

AUG 7 1943

WASHINGTON — The Department of Justice has been advised that Sherif M. Claude Screws, white, of Baker county, Ga., is in Phoebe Putney Memorial hospital in Albany, Ga., suffering from birdshot wounds in the face which are reported to have caused the loss of sight in one eye and may result in the total blindness of both eyes.

Sheriff Screws will be remembered as the peace officer who arrested Robert Hall, a Negro, last January 23. A federal indictment pending against Sheriff Screws charges that he and his deputy sheriff took Hall to the Court House Square, in Newton, where they beat him into insensibility. The indictment charges that Hall died the same night, shortly after being taken to Phoebe Putney Memorial hospital in Albany, Ga.—the same one in which Sheriff Screws is now confined.

That the sheriff is now a patient in the same hospital where his "victim" died is not only coincident connected with his present condition. He was shot in the face, allegedly, by one of the white witnesses in the Bobby Hall case.

Dillard White, the witness, who had testified against the sheriff last April, runs a barroom. He is reported to have committed some misdemeanor, and a warrant for his arrest was issued. Sheriff Screws is reported to have taken great pleasure of assuming the duty of serving the warrant personally.

White, the witness, although a white man, is reported to have feared for his own safety at the hands of Sheriff Screws, against whom White had testified concerning Screws' killing of Hall. In the controversy over the service of the warrant, White is alleged to have fired the birdshot into Screws' face.

Screws is awaiting retrial on the federal indictment, the government having failed to obtain a conviction against him on the first trial.

Daily World

Atlanta, Georgia

Sheriff Who Defied Lynch Mob Passes

A former Sheriff, W. J. White who won national fame by defying a lynch mob in 1913 and then refusing the Carnegia Medal for the act because he "felt he was doing his duty," died at his home in Spartanburg, S. C. Friday at the age of 70.

Mr. White served Spartanburg County sheriff from 1904 to 1920. In 1913 a large crowd attacked the jail, dynamiting its gate, and demanding custody of a Negro who had been arrested on a charge of attacking a white woman. Sheriff White warned the members that he would shoot the first man to cross into the jail, and kept his prisoner unharmed.

The accused Negro later was acquitted by a jury.

Defender

Chicago, Ill.

ASK PROBE OF LYNCHING IN ALABAMA TOWN

Garage Mechanic, Brought To Hospital By Two Employers, Dies

BIRMINGHAM—(ANP)—Circumstances surrounding the mysterious death of Willie Lee Cooper on August 9 at Beatrice, Ala., fit all the definitions of a lynching, the Birmingham branch N.A.A.C.P. charged Wednesday in a request that state and federal authorities make a searching investigation of the case. Officials of the local branch charged that Cooper, a garage mechanic, employed by Edward and Wilbert Owens, white, of Monroeville, Ala., one of whom is a deputy sheriff, left his job without notice, was hunted down by the two Owens brothers, aided by Sheriff Nichols of Monroe county, and that when Owens found Cooper he took him away in an automobile.

Later, the report says, the Owens brothers and a Dr. Eddins turned up at the home of a Bill Stallworth and asked him to "fix a bed for Willie Lee" saying that he had been hurt. Finding accommodations unavailable, the report of the branch says, Cooper was carried to a hospital in Repton, Ala.

The N.A.A.C.P. report said that "Dr. Carter said, according to the statement made by the doctor in charge of the hospital, the three men brought Cooper to the hospital about 11 o'clock that night, with head and face badly bruised, arm broken, and body beaten into a pulp."

The doctor revealed that upon asking Cooper how he got hurt, he was told by the fatally wounded man, "I am afraid to tell, they will beat me again if I tell." Winning the beaten man's confidence, the report says, Dr. Carter was told that he had been beaten. He died about eight o'clock the next morning.

Bill Cooper, father of the slain man, came to see his son, stopping at the Owens garage, the report says, where he was told that his son was injured and was doing fine in the hospital, when a telephone call telling of the death of Willie Lee interrupted the conversation.

The victim, according to the report, was denied embalming service at Monroeville. No certificate of death showing cause was issued, the N.A.A.C.P. officials learned. Cooper was buried unceremoniously on August 11.

Lynching Conspiracy

Journal and Guide

(From Washington, D. C., Edition)

A man named James Edward Person was shot to death by a mob in Illinois, near the Indiana border, last October 12. Apart from being a Negro and a stranger, he had committed no offense. He had received an honorable medical discharge from the Army and was peaceably making his way toward his home in Tennessee. On the way he stopped at several farmhouses to ask for food. Because of his color and his strangeness, rumors about him spread round the countryside, and a hue and cry were raised against him. A mob calling itself a posse under the leadership of a sheriff and three deputies, pursued him, shot him and left him to die from wounds and exposure. His body was not found until six weeks later.

This story forms the background for what may prove a very significant test of Federal authority to act against the crime of lynching. For a Federal grand jury in East St. Louis, Ill., has now indicted 13 persons, including the sheriff and three deputies (no longer in office) on the ground that they conspired, under the color of State law, to deny James Person his rights under the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution which provides that no State shall "deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." The vital factor in this case is that the defendants are alleged to have persuaded State officers to violate the Constitution.

A similar indictment was presented last April in the case of a Mississippi Negro who had been duly tried and sentenced to life imprisonment and then lynched by a mob which took him from jail and out of the hands of State officers. The Department of Justice failed to secure a conviction in this case. But the trial of the defendants in Illinois, where Southern prejudices respecting Negroes need not becloud justice, may have a different outcome. The case, moreover, is a flagrantly ugly one. It seems fair to say that it probably never would have occurred in a Southern State. As in most instances of mob action, this lynching had its origin in rumors and hysteria—which apparently developed in the Northern community largely because of the fact that a Negro was an oddity there and consequently became an object of suspicion.

When a mob takes the law into its own hands and lynches a man, the crime is a concern of the State in which it occurs. The Federal Government has no more jurisdiction over it than it has over any other sort of murder not committed on Federal property. But when a mob acts in concert with the officials of a State, or compels or persuades them to violate the Constitution, then Federal authorities may intervene. This is what happens in nearly half of the lynchings which occur in this country. It is what happened in Illinois where a sheriff participated in the violence and it is what happened in Mississippi where the victim was taken from the sheriff's custody. If a conviction is obtained against the defendants in Illinois, then the long-debated question of a Federal anti-lynching law will have become in large part academic. For the Federal Government will be able to assume jurisdiction over every lynching case in which State officials are involved.

Norfolk, Virginia

Of itself, this would be something of a boon, since it would avoid another long congressional wrangle over an issue entailing States' rights, bitter sectional controversy and touchy racial questions. It would be fortunate if the country in wartime could be spared so divisive a debate. More important, however, is the consideration that the States themselves could be expected to tighten the enforcement of their anti-lynching laws against lynching. Most important of all is the fact that if this precedent is established it will give the Federal Government a powerful instrument for the protection of civil rights.

370-1943

7132

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Let's Have An Investigation

FEB 14 1943

Sheriff Claude Screws of Baker County, Georgia, in his statement to the Associated Press this week, charged that Robert Hall, Negro mechanic of that county, met his death because he resisted arrest, thus making it necessary to subdue him by physical force.

What the Sheriff objects to in The World's report is that we term Hall's death a lynching. It does not seem to make so very much difference how we look at it. For the plain fact is the man met his death by mob-action and not according to the "due process" course, which is guaranteed to all within our constitution.

FEB 14 1943

On the other hand, by his very admission that he had directed two deputies to arrest Hall, gives strength to our argument that the victim was lynched, since the deputies brought the prisoner to him at the city well, where he was getting a drink of water about midnight.

But Sheriff Screws' statement will be disappointing to even his very best friends. For he does not explain how Robert Hall got so many abrasions and contusions about the head. He fails to give a simple explanation how Hall was able to attack him with a gun, when he was handcuffed from the very beginning of the trip from his home by his two deputies. Also no explanation was offered to show why it was necessary to arrest Hall at such a late hour in the night when he could have easily been taken into custody the next morning.

FEB 14 1943

What is infinitely more important to us than the hair-splitting attempts to avoid describing Hall's death as a lynching is that some concrete and practical steps will be taken to call to account those who conspired to take his life contrary to the legal guarantees of the constitution.

Gadsden, Ala., Times
February 11, 1943

Lynching Charge Brings Denial

Sheriff Says Negro's Death Due To Injuries From Resisting Arrest

NEWTON, Ga., Feb. 11.—(AP)—Sheriff M. C. Screws said today that Robert Hall, Negro, died from injuries received while resisting arrest on a charge of tire theft and was not "lynched" as charged by The Atlanta World, Negro newspaper.

Hall died in an Albany hospital Jan. 29 of head injuries.

Screws said he issued a warrant for Hall's arrest on complaint of George Durham, Baker County tire rationing board chairman, charging Hall with theft of tires from Durham's truck.

"I sent two deputies, Frank Jones and Robert Kelly, to Hall's home to make the arrest," the sheriff said. "When the deputies entered the house Hall reached for a pump gun, but the deputies disarmed him and brought him to town in a car.

"I met them at the public well and put Hall in the rear seat. His gun was in the front seat between the deputies.

"When we arrived at the jail the deputies got out of the car and told Hall to 'come on.' When he came out of the car he brought the gun with him and began cursing us.

"I hit the barrel of the gun just as he fired, and the shot went into the air. Then we let him have it with fists and blackjacks."

The sheriff said he returned to his office after directing the deputies to lodge the Negro in jail.

"When they (Kelly and Jones) returned to the office, they told me Hall had been hurt pretty bad, so I called an ambulance and ordered him removed to the hospital, I also arranged for Dr. J. M. Barnett to treat him."

The Negro died shortly after arrival at the hospital, Screws added.

The Atlanta World, in an editorial on the incident, said "Another blow was dealt to interracial justice and goodwill in the South when Robert Hall, Baker County Negro, was lynched by a mob. . . . Just what steps Governor Arnall and the other law enforcing groups of the state will take to bring those guilty to account for their acts, is not yet known."

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, PA.

Lynching Details Exposed

(Editor's Note—Following receipt of news from Albany, Ga., that circumstances surrounding the death of Bobbie Hall suggested he was a victim of Georgia lynchers, The Pittsburgh Courier dispatched a special investigator to the scene to gather the facts. Here is what he found.)

(By Special Correspondent)

ALBANY, Ga., Feb 18—I attended the funeral services, held last Wednesday, for Bobbie Hall, highly respected mechanic of Newton, but details of the funeral are of mere passing interest.

What is important is that Negro residents of the city feel that a young man was brutally lynched by the guardians of the law . . . men who are sworn public servants for the protection of all.

ARRESTED ON FAKE CHARGE

There is bitterness and rancor in the hearts of the colored people in this section and I don't believe this state of mind exists because Bobbie Hall was 1943's first lynching victim. No, it exists because no law enforcement agency, Federal or State, has seemingly interested itself in this fiendish killing.

According to information which I have been able to pick up, Sheriff Claude Screws of Baker county, accompanied by Policeman Frank Jones, invaded Mr. Hall's home on the night of January 29 and arrested him on an alleged fake charge of stealing the truck of John C. Derms (white). It appears to be a fake charge because I have learned that Mr. Derms denies swearing out a warrant on any such charge.

Hall was placed under arrest then taken to city jail. There he was said to have been beaten unmercifully. Then, according to informants, a rope was tied around the neck of the victim. He was dragged through the courthouse, up and down cement steps. It is also widely rumored that acid was poured into his ears and mouth.

What was the motive for this inhuman brutality? It appears that Sheriff Screws had recently conducted a campaign to collect all the guns in the county owned by Negroes. In this roundup, he arrested Mr. Hall for possession of firearms. At the January term of court, Hall was freed of the charges and the sheriff ordered to return the gun.

This, it appears, angered the sheriff, and it is being said that the Hall incident was an "example" to other Negroes NOT to attempt to clear themselves when a white officer says they are guilty.

FEB 20 1943

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
February 11, 1943

Sheriff Denies Negro "Lynched"

NEWTON, Ga. (AP) — Sheriff M. C. Screws said today that Robert Hall, Negro, died from injuries received while resisting arrest on a charge of tire theft and was not "lynched" as charged by The Atlanta World, Negro newspaper.

Hall died in a Newton hospital Jan. 29 of head injuries.

Screws said he issued a warrant for Hall's arrest on complaint of George Durham, Baker County tire rationing board chairman, charging Hall with theft of tires from Durham's truck.

"I sent two deputies, Frank Jones and Robert Kelly, to Hall's home to make the arrest," the sheriff said. "When the deputies entered the house Hall reached for a pump gun but the deputies disarmed him and brought him to town in a car.

"I met them at the public well and put Hall in the rear seat. His gun was in the front seat between the deputies.

"When we arrived at the jail the deputies got out of the car and told Hall to 'come on.' When he came out of the car he brought the gun with him and began cursing us.

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The Atlanta World, in an editorial on the incident, said "another blow was dealt to interracial justice and goodwill in the South when Robert Hall, Baker County Negro, was lynched by a mob. x x x Just what steps Governor Arnall and the other law enforcing groups of the State will take to bring those guilty to account for their acts, is not yet known."

FEB 20 1943

Governor Asked To Remove Sheriff

Bystander
Des Moines, Iowa

Georgia Back into Lynch Column with One Death

Albany (ANP)—After an absence of two years the state of Georgia swung back into the lynch column, earning with the brutal beating to death of youthful Robert Hall the dubious distinction of providing the first illegal execution of 1943, it was learned this week. FEB 1 1 1943

Behind the death of Hall was a story of white hot hatred, the misuse of police authority, the forging of a warrant, a midnight abduction and a fiction-like conspiracy to take the life of a human being, that is so often told in the south.

Hall was arrested Friday, Jan. 21 after he had been forced out of bed on automobile theft charges in a fake warrant served by Sheriff Claude Screws of Baker county, accompanied by Policeman Frank Jones.

Positive proof that the warrant was a fake came to light this week with the testimony of John C. Derm, owner of the truck from which the tire was allegedly stolen, that no tire had been removed from the vehicle and that he had preferred no charges against young Hall. Derm's testimony was corroborated by his brother, George C. Derm, both of whom denied that they had signed any warrant. FEB 1 1 1943

Placed under arrest after the midnight visit by the minions of the law, Hall was at first thought to have been lodged in the Baker county jail.

It was not until 2:30 o'clock Saturday, Jan. 30, that what had really happened to Hall came to light. It was at that hour that employes of an Albany funeral home received an ambulance call to come to Newton, Ga., about 15 miles away and get a "nigger I had to beat up."

Badly Beaten

The call relayed from a hospital in Albany was reported to have been sent by Sheriff Screws. The ambulance attendants got the badly battered and bruised man from the jail, where the jailer asserted that he had not been touched since his arrival, and that the victim was brought to the jail in the condition in which he was found. FEB 1 1 1943

Hall, rushed to an Albany hospital, died a few minutes after he had been admitted.

The body bore 21 abrasians and contusions, and deep cuts in the wrists, lending observers to believe that he had been tied behind an automobile and dragged over rough ground.

The back of his head had been beaten so badly, it was described as being as "soft as a ripe tomato." The clothes were torn to shreds and the entire body was covered with dirt, further evidence that he had been dragged behind a speeding car.

Motive for the attack was supplied by several white Baker county residents after they have viewed the youth's remains. Sheriff Screws, it was disclosed, had become angry with Hall after the lynch victim had appeared before the grand jury seeking to recover a pistol which had been removed from the pocket of his car by Sheriff Screws.

The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan

Blame Sheriff In Midnight Kidnaping

Albany, Feb. 12. (ANP)—After an absence of two years the state of Georgia swung back into the lynch column, earning with the brutal beating to death of youthful Robert Hall the dubious distinction of providing the first illegal execution of 1943, it was learned this week.

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An expert mechanic, Hall enjoyed the respect of both races of citizens in Baker county. He helped repair all of the tractors and farm implements in this section. FEB 1 2 1943

At the funeral was his brother, Pvt. Howard Hall, who obtained leave from the army fighting for democracy to attend. His father, a farmer and land-owner, sat grief-stricken throughout the services held Wednesday, Feb. 3. FEB 1 2 1943

Besides his parents, the victim is survived by his widow, a young son, three sisters and four brothers, all of whom reside in Baker county.

Thus far no charges have been filed against Sheriff Screws, who for several days was strangely absent from the community. Returning Wednesday, he was placed under the care of a physician and reports have been spread that he is suffering with a "nervous breakdown." FEB 1 2 1943

thought he was being held at the Coffee County jail at Manchester refused to leave until two of their number were led through the jail to be convinced that Johnson was not there. MAY 29 1943

He is reported to have shot himself when officers cornered him at a Nashville bus station.

Was It Suicide or Lynching?

TULLAHOMA, Tenn. — (ANP) — George [illegible] Johnson, sought by a mob of 200 on Thursday night, died [illegible] which officers [illegible] MAY 29 1943

Death Ends Its Long 'Holiday' In Georgia

ALBANY, Ga., Feb. 11—Death [illegible] the kind for which Georgia, Mississippi and certain other Southern States are more or less "famous" or "infamous" took a holiday for two years, but, several days ago, came riding back [illegible] FEB 13 1943

370-1943

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Judge Revives Frank Lynching By Vow to Show Him Innocent

PM
New York, N. Y.

By Serrell Hillman

Arthur G. Powell, former Judge of the Georgia Court of Appeals, told PM today that he expected to reveal "before I die—and I'm 70 now" proof that Leo M. Frank, convicted and lynched for a murder which electrified the Nation in 1913, was unquestionably innocent.

The retired jurist, now a practicing attorney in Atlanta, reopened the sensational case in a book just published by the University of North Carolina Press, entitled *I Can Go Home Again*.

Powell today repeated his written statement that he could not clear Frank until "after certain persons are dead," explaining that he received his evidence as a lawyer and therefore was bound to secrecy.

The elderly attorney said he hoped to take an active part in solving the case—"we live long in Georgia"—but added that he intended meanwhile to write and seal his information.

Revived in Novel

The Frank case, whose sectional aspects made it the talk of the country, was revived in fictional form several years ago in Ward Greene's *Death in the Deep South*. The novel was converted into a powerful movie, *They Won't Forget*, which aroused deep resentment south of the Mason-Dixon line.

Leo Frank, a Brooklyn Jew, was convicted of murdering Mary Phagan, who lived in Marietta and worked in nearby Atlanta, at a pencil company of which Frank was secretary.

Powell said in his book that the trial judge, the late L. S. Roan, told him as he prepared to charge the jury:

"This man's innocence is proved to many of us beyond any reasonable doubt."

Nevertheless, the jury declared Frank guilty. He was sentenced to death, and an appeal carried to the U. S. Supreme Court was rejected.

Investigation Foiled

The late William J. Burns, nationally known detective, attempted a personal investigation, but was forced to leave by Marietta townsmen.

A petition for clemency finally was filed with Georgia's Governor, John M. Slaton, who, on his last day of office—June 30, 1915—commuted the sentence to life.

Powell said in his book that Slaton had told friends he would have granted Frank a full pardon if he had not believed the truth would be revealed shortly.

Slater's courageous action resulted in a wave of indignation throughout Georgia. Frank was attacked by a fellow-prisoner. Then, while he was recuperating, a mob of masked men took him from the prison farm at Milledgeville to an oak grove two miles from Marietta and hanged him.

The lynching rekindled old antagonisms of North and South. In the South the lynching generally was condoned, with the Marietta *Journal*, according to Mark Sullivan's *Our Times*, voicing this widespread belief:

"The people demanded that the verdict of the court be carried out and so it was. We insist they were, and are, law-abiding citizens of Georgia."

Former Gov. Slaton, who was threatened by mobs following his commutation order and whose house was protected by the National Guard, is still practicing law in Atlanta. He was out of town today and could not be reached.

Kin Of Lynched Soldier Aided By White Sergeant

Defender
Chicago, Ill.

NEW YORK—A white sergeant in a bombing squadron, who read of the lynching of Private Hollie Willis of Camp Ellis, Ill., by four farmers who mistook him for a soldier who had attacked a woman, this week sent two money orders for $150 to PM, liberal daily published here, asking the editors to send the money to the family of Private Willis.

The sergeant, who gave an AGP address said: "If the following request appears to be an unreasonable imposition, then just forget it—and send the dough on to somewhere it'll do some good, or buy the gang a case each of VVO or do whatever the hell you'd like to with it.

"However, if your organization desires to undertake the labor involved, then it would be more than appreciated if you could locate the next-of-kin of Pvt. Hollie Willis, late of Camp Ellis, and forward them the enclosed rather ridiculous atonement for the death of an unknown buddy," the letter requested.

The farmers who shot and killed Willis were cleared by a coroner's jury which said the shooting was "justifiable homicide."

Believe Disappeared War Veteran Lynched

Kansas City Call—Kansas City, Mo

CEDARTOWN, Ga. (ANP) — Belief is widespread in this community that Precious E. Grant, a veteran of World War I, who mysteriously disappeared from the county jail here, has been lynched and his body left for carrion birds in the nearby woods.

Grant was arrested last March 21 on a warrant sworn out by a white woman charging him with attempted rape. The woman, who failed to identify Grant as her assailant, claimed that a man, whose facial identity she did not know, grabbed her from behind on March 21, and instantly released her after she screamed.

Grant was held in the jail from March 21 until Nov. 28, when two unknown white men came and removed him from his cell. He has not been seen since.

The Ghost Of Leo Frank

PM
New York, N. Y.

This is an old story, but it is one of the saddest and most ironic that I know. And besides, it has just been given a fresh twist. (Page 3.) And so I shall tell it.

Leo Frank was a young New Yorker who went down to Atlanta to work in his uncle's pencil factory—as secretary of the firm and manager of the plant. In 1913 a young girl called Mary Phagan, who worked in the factory, was found murdered.

Suspicion turned to Leo Frank. There was no direct evidence. But the people of Atlanta were sure he had done it, and they clamored for revenge. Was he not a Jew? And was he not a "foreigner" from the North? And had he not brought with him new-fangled Northern notions, and had he not come as a Northerner and a Jew to prey on Southern girls? The decades of Southern bitterness somehow got twisted with the centuries-old myths of Jewish diabolism and blood-guilt.

Trial by Mob

The result was trial by mob. Frank never had a chance. The whole structure of legal justice was too frail to stand up under the torrential passions that the case unloosed. There was, as we look back at it now, a sickening sense of fatality about the whole thing.

The trial began on July 28, 1913, in Atlanta, with Judge Roan on the bench, with the courtroom packed with a hostile crowd, and an even larger hostile crowd outside. Toward the end the Judge had on one occasion to adjourn court for a day, after conferring with the Chief of Police and the commanding officer of the militia. On the day the Judge charged the jury, the Prosecutor received a thunderous ovation as he entered the courtroom. When the jurors were being polled the crowd roared its approval after each answer. The Judge advised Frank and his lawyer to stay away from the court, fearing what would happen if there was an acquittal or disagreement.

The verdict was guilty and the sentence was death.

There followed a series of unsuccessful appeals, on the ground that the mob-dominated trial had been a farce. But the Georgia Supreme Court upheld the lower court. The Federal District Court refused to intervene, saying it could not retry the facts of the case, and that the judicial forms had been complied with. The case was finally appealed to the U. S. Supreme Court, with the famous lawyer Louis Marshall, arguing the appeal for Frank.

It Was Too Bad . . .

In a long and learned majority opinion by Justice Pitney [illegible] it was too bad, but it could do nothing. Only two justices dissented—Oliver Wendell Holmes and Charles Evans Hughes.

The case gave Holmes the occasion to write one of his most brilliant and militant dissenting opinions.

"This is not," he wrote, "a matter for polite presumptions; we must look facts in the face. Any judge who has sat with juries knows that in spite of forms they could be done, the only reso[illegible] are extremely likely to be impregnated[illegible] by the environing atmosphere. . . . Weency. On his last day in office, on the [illegible] think the presumption overwhelming[illegible] that the jury responded to the passions[illegible] of the mob. . . . It is our duty to declare[illegible] lynch law as little valid when practiced[illegible] by a regularly drawn jury as when ad[illegible] ministered by a mob in[illegible] ent on death."

Meanwhile Frank sat in jail and waited. And people outside were saying more and more loudly that justice was slow, and that lawyers could buy any man's way out of a noose.

After the Supreme Court had said [illegible] long distance to Marietta where Mary Phagan had lived, and string him up by the inevitable rope to the inevitable tree. Leo Frank died an agonized death [illegible] that mid-August night in 1915. And being dead, he cannot enjoy a sequel to his story which is the cream of the jest. For only last week an old Southern lawyer called Arthur Powell published a book of memoirs. He had been a judge of the Appeals Court, he was a friend of Gov. Slaton, and while Judge Roan who presided at the Frank trial, he was a friend of Gov. Slaton, and of the trial, he knew the case thoroughly from the inside. "I am one of the few people who

The Party of Masked Men

Frank didn't have long to wait. While he was being guarded at one of the prison farms in Georgia, the inevitable party of masked men drove up in the mid of night, drove Frank by car to

now," he writes in his book, "that Leo Frank was innocent. . . . I know who killed Mary Phagan." It seems further that Powell sat beside his friend Judge Roan when the latter was getting ready to charge the jury. Roan told his friend that "this man's innocence is proved to a mathematical certainty."

And so they knew all the time. The Judge knew, and his friend knew. The Governor knew too: Powell says that the Governor told his friends that he would have granted Frank a pardon, "but he believed that in a very short while the truth would come out."

They knew all the time that an evil thing was happening. And they did nothing.

I wonder where the ghost of Leo Frank is now. I'd like to send him a copy of the book.

PV Reporter on Spot as Lynching of Soldier And Civilian Brews in Tennessee

MAY 29 1943

Peoples Voice
New York, N. Y.
MAY 29 1943

By RICHARD SHANNON

MAY 29 1943

Special

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (PV's Southern Bureau)—Tennessee lynch fires are being lighted for two young Negroes—a soldier and a civilian worker—who are accused of complicity in the fatal shooting of a 19-year-old white girl near Camp Forrest early Wednesday morning.

Private Silas Keith, 20, is in the Camp Forrest guardhouse waiting to be turned over with Pittman Ward, now in the Nashville jail for "safekeeping," to a special session of the Coffee County grand jury slated to meet early next week following unsuccessful mob outbreaks in both Manchester and nearby Tullahoma.

A third Negro, George Johnson, former restaurant owner in Tullahoma, died following a gun battle with city policemen in the Nashville bus station Thursday. The official version has it that Johnson shot himself in the head as the officers approached and, before dying in a hospital, confessed to firing the two shots which killed Mrs. Norma Faye Scogin, wife of Lieutenant George Scogin of Camp Forrest.

MAY 29 1943

FOURTH MAN JAILED

With mob spirit running high, Coffee County Sheriff Sim Banks has locked up in the Manchester jail a fourth Negro, Hugh Stoneshead of Tullahoma, who is accused of selling Johnson the pistol which killed the girl.

Mrs. Mary Johnson, widow of the dead man, and Pittman's sister, whose name was not learned, were locked up by Manchester Constable Grover C. Crocker while a mob was still looking for Johnson. The two women, who were later released, had gone to the jail to make inquiries for Pittman.

"Fires are too good for the two n——rs," Constable Crocker, right-hand man of Sheriff Banks told a People's Voice reporter. "I hate to say this as an officer of the law, but God help all of 'em who done it."

Earlier in the day, James Bush, barber at the Star Barber shop in Manchester, had boasted to the reporter: "A mob of 200 went over Wednesday night and didn't go away until the sheriff let two of 'em in to show 'em that the n——rs wasn't there. "——— the jail. We'll burn it down. Lynching—I believe in it. The law's no good. There's too many loopholes."

Keith and Ward were first arrested and held as material witnesses when they went to the Tullahoma jail early Wednesday morning and told local officers that Mrs. Scogin had been slain by Johnson. The youths said that they were driving through the streets when Johnson held them up with a gun, forced his way into the car, and then later enticed Mrs. Scogin to enter the automobile.

CHARGED WITH MURDER

Then, said the youths, Johnson forced them to drive out three miles on the old Manchester road, running east from Tullahoma. There, they said, he shot the girl and covered up her body under a brush pile. Afterward, they said, he forced them, still flourishing his gun, to drive them back to town.

This correspondent feels that it is highly questionable that guilty men would have made straight for the jail at the first opportunity and reported the crime. But, under the bloody code of Dixie, both boys were charged with murder after a coroner's jury rendered a verdict that the girl had died of murder and assault.

But the assault part of the tragedy was flatly denied by Dr. James M. King, of Tullahoma, who conducted the autopsy on the girl's body.

Dr. King indicated that there were no evidences that the girl had been raped. "She happened to be a married woman and living with her husband," he pointed out. "I found no signs of any trauma."

Dr. King was asked if the autopsy showed any traces of venereal disease. "There was a infection of the pelvis," he told People's Voice, "but I can't say what it was."

Earlier, Deputy Sheriff Arthur L. Blake of Tullahoma revealed that Ward told him that Johnson picked up the woman near an alley in the rear of the Double Cola Bottling Works. Johnson whistled. Blake quoted Ward as saying that the woman then came up and entered the car.

MAY 29 1943

MUM ON GIRL'S CHARACTER

Mrs. Scogin's landlady, a woman named Booker who runs a rooming house at 315 Atlanta st, Tullahoma, refused to give any information about the dead girl's character. "Her husband asked me not to say anything to the newspapers," she mumbled. "We don't want the reputation of our house ruined. All I can tell you is that she came from Des Moines and moved here from the Harton Hotel about a month ago."

There was no answer when the reporter asked, "Would you consider that Mrs. Scogin was a quiet respectable girl."

When the reporter asked Tullahoma Chief of Police W. C. Hale, "What business did a woman have getting in a car with three men," that officer replied:

"That's what got us all worried, too."

Gossip claims that the three posed as "FBI men" to the girl.

"On Wednesday night," the chief related, "before Ward had been turned back to the military authorities to await the grand jury, five or six cars of hoodlums drove up to the city jail and demanded that I turn the prisoners [redacted] to them. Some of 'em had guns and some of 'em were likkered up."

"I told 'em the law was the law and I was here to see that it was enforced

"Then they said that they was gonna burn down n——r town and drove away. We followed 'em with riot guns and they drove through the colored section but didn't raise any trouble. I know the leaders, and they're all cowards taken by themselves. They get bold when they gang up together."

With Hale at the time was Earl Young, the 53-year-old Manchester Negro, who recognized Johnson at the Nashville bus station and whose employer called the police. Chief Hale was skeptical of the story that Johnson had shot himself, but Young insisted that the fugitive had not been killed by the two officers, Patrolmen Harold D. Stringfellow and C. P. Lynch.

SOLDIERS RESTRICTED

Young's memory failed under further questioning. He could not remember even the name of his employer, who operates a Coffee County roadhouse, but hurriedly drove away with that employer when the latter arrived in a taxi.

Chief Hale told PV that Negroes are allowed uptown in Tullahoma only when they come to make purchases or transact other business. Negro soldiers from adjacent Camp Forrest, he said, are required strictly to stay in the colored section.

Keith comes from Florence, Ala. Ward, who lives in Tullahoma, worked in the Camp Forrest hospital.

MAY 29 1943

CHARGED WITH ASSAULT
Massey who has been in h
for a week awaiting a hea
says he was approached by
street.